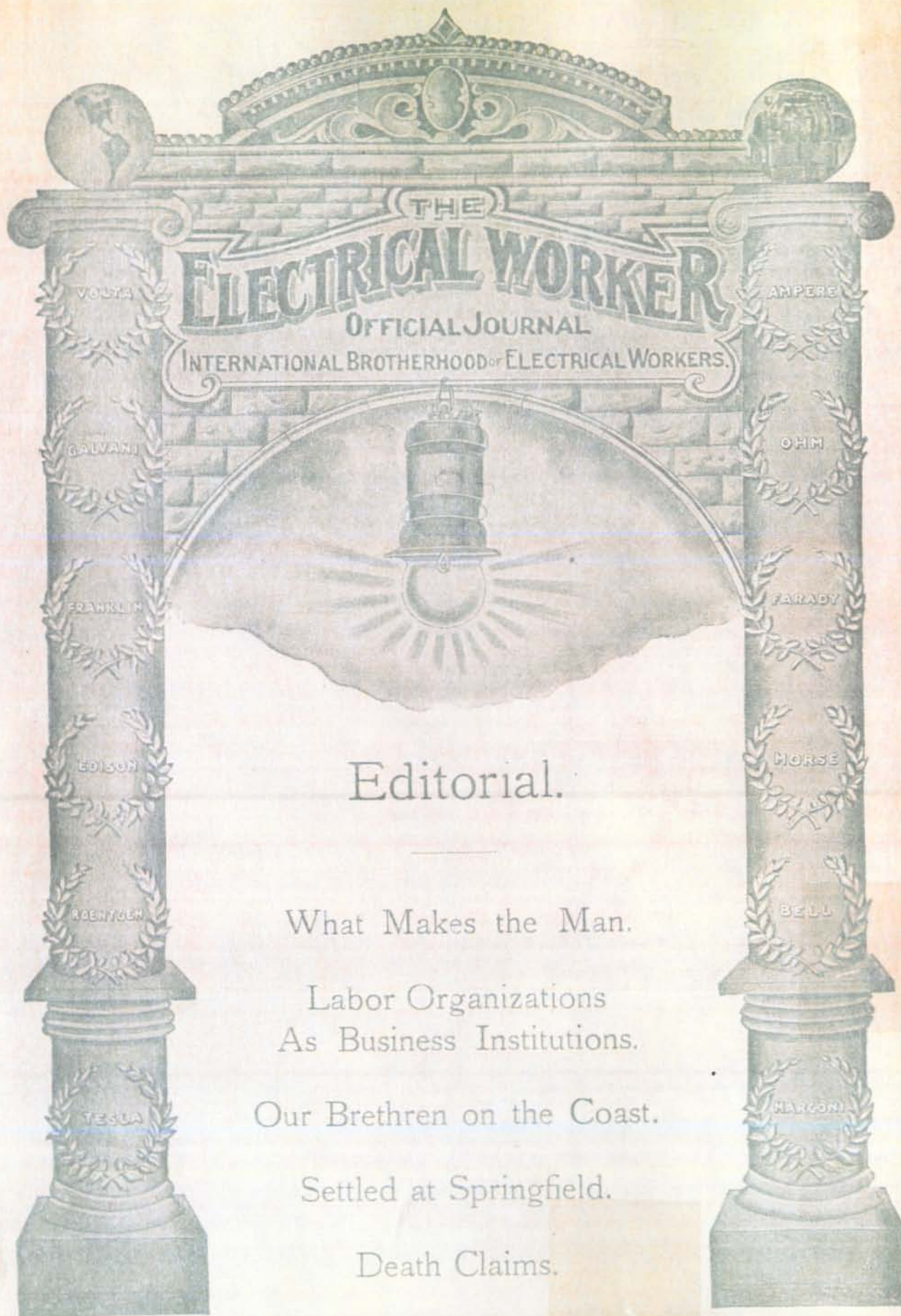


JUNE, 1906



(THE)
ELECTRICAL WORKER
OFFICIAL JOURNAL
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS.

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As Business Institutions.

Our Brethren on the Coast.

Settled at Springfield.

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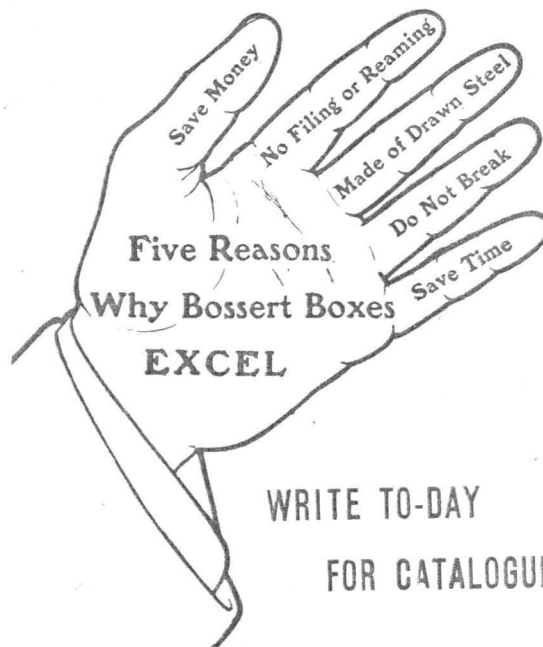
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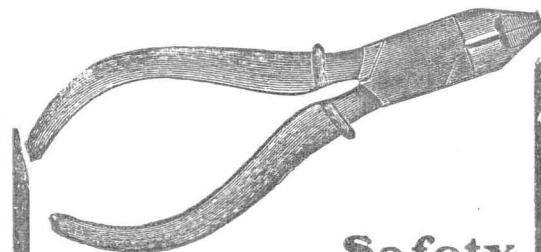
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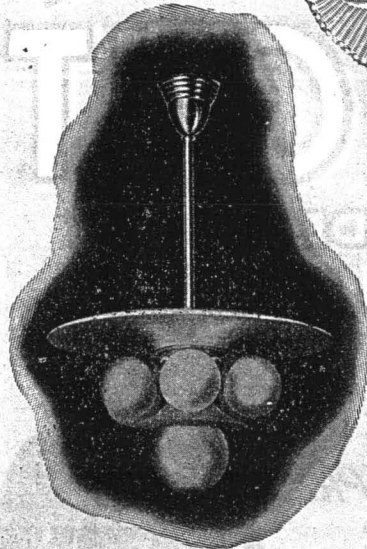
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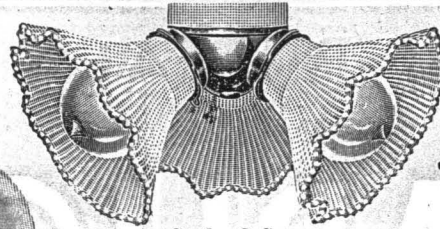
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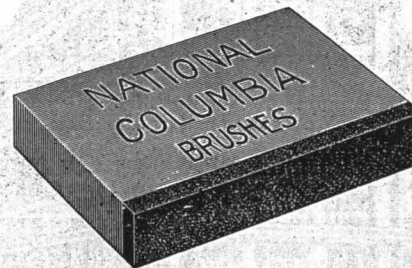
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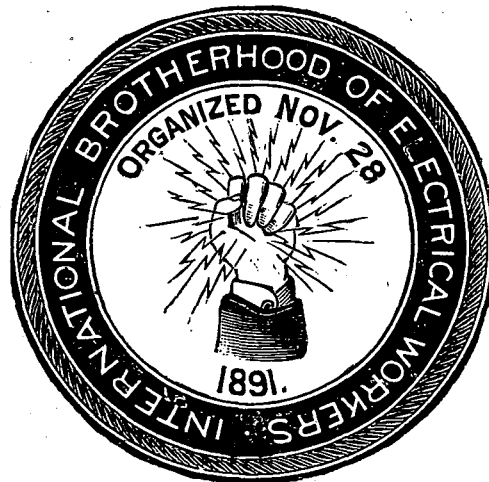
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THE
ELECTRICAL



WORKER

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of the

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

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BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

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SPRINGFIELD, ILL., JUNE, 1906

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\$1 per year in advance

G. V. P. NOONAN.

On March 24th, I came to Atlanta, Ga., being called by Bro. Dale Smith, to try to settle differences existing for more than a year between our Brotherhood and Southern Bell Telephone Co. Called on management with committee from District Council. The company took the stand that they would make no concessions to the union whatever, this after two years of conferences. They had promised us in a meeting that took place on December 14, 1905, that certain cities in the District where a wage lower than \$2.50 for nine hours was being paid would be raised to that price, also promised to take up other matters before their Board of Directors which met in January. Among them being the questions of paying \$2.75 per day to linemen and time and one-half for overtime. After their directors met it was stated by Mr. Gentry, Vice President and Manager of the Company, that those questions had not been taken up and would not be.

After four or five conferences with officials they stated they would pay \$2.70 for 9 hours to strictly first-class men at Exchanges of two thousand subscribers or over, when men were recommended as strictly first-class by foreman and manager, but insisted on grading them into four classes, the fourth-class to receive \$1.98 per day, no matter how long a man had been at the business.

This was after a strike was almost certain and they held out this as a sop to some of the men to induce them to remain at work.

If their plan had carried out the strike would have been a failure, but on April 15th, more than ninety per cent of the men quit work. The strike has been on about seven weeks and in that time the company has only been able to induce 12 men to go back to work in the entire seven states. They have brought into the District about 400 men up to date from New York, Ohio, Texas, Illinois and all surrounding states going as far north as Minnesota for some of them.

Of the men brought in only about one-fourth ever went to work, the others being sent back home by Locals and a great number being initiated into the Locals here.

On a trip through the western portion of the District I found all the members in good spirits and determined to win and Bro. Dale Smith reports the same conditions in eastern part of District through which he has made an extensive trip.

The appeal sent to Local Unions for small assessments is being well answered, all moneys sent will be acknowledged by Bro. Smith by letter and in the WORKER.

Conditions here are very good, everything considered and we believe we can make the first fight a winning one. I hope all brothers will induce all men engaged at our craft and outside our Brotherhood to stay away from this section of the country and we will notify all Locals as soon as settlement is reached. I know many of the members think I should cover my District more thoroughly, but this fight is a large one and of such great importance to our Brotherhood that I have remained in this District. Bro. Fitzgerald informs me that the strike in Minnesota and Dakotas has about 600 men out and some storms to help them will get there as soon as possible. Bro. Hall reports the fixture hangers in Chicago still out but as architects are getting tired of delay and have taken some large jobs from unfair firms and given them to members of Local No. 381, direct. It looks as though they are putting up a winning brand of fight.

I sincerely hope the threatened trouble with Missouri and Kansas Telephone will be settled by the time the WORKER reaches the membership.

Bro. Harry Meyers, P. D. C. of that District Council is now engaged in an effort to settle this trouble.

I sincerely hope that by the time the next WORKER is issued that we can re-

port all of our present strikes settled and place on record a like number of victories for organized labor.

Wishing all members success, I am

J. P. NOONAN,

G. V. P., 2d Dist.

The Story of San Francisco.

BY J. L. COOK.

It has been just one month today since the visitation that almost wiped out the beautiful city by the Golden Gate, and I have visited the ruins by day where by climbing to the highest point in the destroyed portion, one could by turning view the whole terrible scene of desolation, wreck and ruin. I have visited it by night where one could only see the ghostly outlines of gaunt brick walls, lit up by the dull flare of dying fires, still gnawing, and licking at the vitals of the ruined city, the dim flickering throwing wierd shadows over skeleton arms of brick seemingly raised in mute protest against the awful fate that had overtaken them.

Time has only accentuated my first impressions of the awfulness of the disaster, and I am going to try and convey to you how it came upon us, and some of my impressions and experience.

A little after 5 A. M., Wednesday, April 18th, San Francisco, Oakland and the surrounding country, was visited by a most severe and disastrous earthquake, the quake being more severe in San Francisco, than in Oakland, though it was bad enough here.

I was awakened by my bed heaving and tossing for all the world like a ship in a heavy storm which together with the sounds of falling brick, breaking glass, tumbling of bric-a-brac, rattling of pans, the groaning and creaking of straining timbers, was most terrifying.

Being awakened so suddenly from a sound sleep, my first impression was that the end of all was upon us. It only took me a second to revise that opinion, and realize what the trouble was, and my wife and I each grabbed a boy and retired precipitately to the back yard. It was no time for bothering about any little shortcomings of the toilet, and you may rest assured that was the least of our troubles.

The ground seemed to wave and toss, and every way there were toppling and wrecked chimneys; I don't know how it got there unless it like ourselves was shaken out of bed, but there was the sun shining brightly, and it was a bright beginning of a most beautiful day, with never a sign overhead of the fearful turmoil underneath.

The quake was followed by a most death like calm, everything seemed stricken dumb, then everything com-

menced at once, hens to cackle, roosters to crow, and people to shout out, and answer inquiries. In just a minute, though it seemed much longer, every one seemed to be awake and up for all day.

Nerves were put on edge that bright morning, and have been sharpened from day to day, by every shiver of old mother earth, and there have been numbers of them since that first big one, one last night that would have been considered quite severe had it not been for our memory of the big one. Occasionally you will find a man that will say, "I wasn't scared," still you will find he is ready to run at the slightest shiver, and he does not wait to be led in doing it.

I feel perfectly free to confess that they scared me, and scare me badly. I have a great desire to own an air ship, and when I get one I am going to stake it out in the back yard to sleep in nights.

As great and destructive as the quake was, and the loss from that alone was great, it was infinitesimal and insignificant in comparison to the loss from the fire, in San Francisco, that followed the quake.

Rolling boulders along pipe line out of town, and sinking earth in town, destroyed the water mains, and left the city completely at the mercy of the flames, that broke out in dozens of places immediately after the quake; besides the chief of the fire department, was fatally injured by falling walls in the quake, and the department fight without a head, and without water was hopeless from the start.

By 10 A. M. there was an immense black cloud of smoke boiling up from and hanging over the doomed city, and here in Oakland you could hear the dull thud and feel the shiver, resultant from the fire fighters dynamiting the buildings to stop the fire, the wildest rumors imaginable were afloat, and it was impossible to confirm or refute them. After the first ferries went across from this side, no one was allowed to cross over to the city, but there was a train load of refugees landed in Oakland every twenty minutes. It was a scene and time never to be forgotten, the light from the flames lit up East Oakland (where I live) at night and it is more than eight miles distant.

And while the calamity was not as great as the first reports would lead one to believe, still it is so great that no tongue can tell it or pen describe it, in its awful completeness; it is so great that it must be seen before it can be realized, and even then it does not seem real.

There were 450 blocks destroyed, you can't measure it by blocks, there is miles and miles of ruins and desolation. In the neighborhood of 350,000 people, happy, prosperous and contented, were rend-

June 1906

ered homeless, their clothes, working tools and food destroyed, and their source of supply cut off. Their fire alarm system, electric lights, gas, telephones, telegraph and street car service all killed, and three-fourths of a beautiful city wiped out and off leaving only paved streets which gives it the appearance of a checkerboard covered with debris, and all in forty-eight hours, the public utilities being destroyed in the first eighteen seconds of the quake, thousands suffered untold agonies for the want of a drink of water.

It has been said that San Francisco beats all records in everything that she undertakes or that happens, and she has certainly maintained her reputation in the great fire. Comparing what I have seen of the ruins of San Francisco, with what I have read of other ruins of other cities, San Francisco beats them all; ambitious tourists that make the trip around the world to view the ruins of Ancient Rome, or Pompeii can see far greater by traveling to this once beautiful city.

The talk is that the insurance loss is \$235,000,000, I want to say to you, and I believe that I am conservative, all newspaper reports to the contrary notwithstanding, that the actual property loss is between \$1,000,000,000 and \$1,500,000,000, and the most of this was the all of the greater portion of the people, and was not covered by insurance, and is a total loss on those least able to bear it. It leaves well-to-do people the objects and subjects of charity. The millionaire and his gardener and coachman have stood in line and gladly received the same rations, and that charity.

"A little misery makes the whole world akin," this is true in San Francisco, sad and regrettable though it may be it has taken this terrible visitation to make some of our people realize it, but just now the whole people here are closer together than they have ever been, or probably will ever be again. It has been a great leveler of conditions and twister of stiff necks, people whose fathers were compelled to take sand lots for bad debts, and had them grow in value, until they were made immensely wealthy, and proudly imagined they were aristocrats and the salt of the earth, have been made to realize that they are common dust, each dependent upon all, and all insignificant in the great scheme of the universe. That they are common dust just like the rest of us and that the only aristocracy is that of brain, and that not always hereditary.

The loss of life has not been so great in comparison to the loss of property, but it has been much greater than will ever be known or has been given out as official.

The membership of every trade and every organization has been so widely scattered, and the work of registration is necessarily proceeding so slowly, that it will take months for us to locate our entire membership, or give an accurate list of our dead, crippled and sick. We are giving such relief as we can, paying hospital fees, sick benefits, and buying tools, etc. A great majority lost everything, and there is not even common labor here for the greater portion of the people still remaining here, additions to our population at this time other than capitalists, is only adding to our troubles. You will be doing a kindness to warn all working people to keep away from here, until further notice, we will advertise to the world when labor conditions even begin to return to the normal.

The open-hearted, spontaneous and universal giving of much needed relief, by the people of this great country, to the stricken city, has been and is most touching, people who have endured untold miseries and calamity unflinchingly and calmly, have broken down and wept when they have felt and experienced the great spirit of giving and relief that has universally been shown.

Some one, some where has written and expressed it much better than I can when they said:

"There is crepe upon the Golden Gate
And sorrow in the land,
And all nations of the earth
Extend a helping hand;
From East and West, North and South
The long relief trains go,
And every heart in every breast
Is melted by her woe."

Locally the same spirit has been manifested, Oakland has taken care of unnumbered thousands, poor people depending on their daily wage, have taken in, housed and fed as high as thirty to forty to the family. One could write a book about the terrifying, heartrending and hair raising experiences of individuals one knows or even of what one has seen as far removed as I have been here, occasionally there has been found an individual in whom the brute and savage has predominated, fortunately they have been the exception instead of the rule. In the great majority there has prevailed a spirit of self-sacrifice and heroism that makes one glad to belong to the same race that has produced them. I am thankful that me and mine were spared, and able to help, even a little, and my heart goes out to those, who through no fault of theirs, have been compelled to ask for and receive assistance.

The people of San Francisco have the right spirit, and before the ruins were through smoking were preparing to rebuild the once beautiful city, plans now

under way will bring into being a greater and more beautiful city.

"From the ruins at her feet,
Lo she will rise again;
The spirit bold of Forty-nine
Still burns in heart and mind.
A San Francisco, newly built
And grander than before
Will crown with palaces of trade
Her seven hills once more."

In asking you to excuse the great length of this communication I venture to express the hope that the last sun will set after the last day of time ere there is a similar visitation any where to the one in San Francisco, April 18, 1906.

No. 1414 8th Avenue.

Initiative and Referendum.

In the June elections in Oregon, comes the second great test of the initiative and referendum in that state. Besides five constitutional amendments to be voted on, having been initiated by the people, there are various bills to be adopted or rejected, bills that, also have been initiated by the people. Four of the pending constitutional amendments and one of the bills were initiated through the efforts of the People's Power League of that state. This organization has been the leading influence that has been urging this improved system of government in Oregon. The five amendments initiated by the League are:

1. An amendment to extend the principle of the Initiative and Referendum to local, special and municipal laws and parts of laws.
2. An amendment to allow the state printing, binding and printers compensation to be regulated by law at any time.
3. An amendment giving to cities and towns the exclusive right to amend their charters, subject to the constitution and criminal laws.
4. An amendment giving power to legislative assembly to propose and submit to the people amendments to the constitution, to proclaim such amendments, and requiring the people's approval before a constitutional convention can be called.

Besides this, the People's Power League has initiated a bill for a law to prohibit free passes and discrimination by public service corporations.

But the People's Power League by no means has a monopoly of initiating measures. Other interests have initiated measures and others still are trying to get the necessary signatures to petitions. The Equal Suffrage Association has filed a petition for a constitutional amendment enfranchising women.

The State Grange has initiated, by petition, a bill for a law providing for two corporation license tax laws.

The owners of toll roads have filed an initiative petition providing for the state

purchase of toll roads at a cost of \$24,000.

Even the State Liquor Dealers Association has come lugging in a bill, by petition, proposing certain modifications of the Act of June, 1904, which Act was adopted by the people by referendum vote and provides for local option. The original Act was initiated by the Prohibitionists.

Besides all this, a petition was filed last Spring, against one of the appropriation bills, which must now be settled by the people. All of these various measures will be voted upon at the coming June elections.

The Initiative and Referendum amendment to the state constitution under which all this is done, was adopted by the people by an overwhelming vote at the election of 1902. Since then, but one general election has been held, that of 1904. The referendum is optional in character, and has been used but once. This was after the last legislature adjourned after having passed an appropriation bill which included an unusually large amount of money for certain purposes. The people immediately held up this bill by filing a five per cent petition and the matter will be decided by the people next month at the general election. The Initiative has been used twice before this in 1904. One of these initiative petitions asked for a vote on a bill for direct nominations, and the other was for a bill providing a satisfactory local option law. Both bills were adopted by the people.

The liquor local veto bill has been especially satisfactory as, before 1904, the communities had the licensed saloon inflicted upon them whether they wanted it or not. Now the people have secured to themselves the right to vote out the liquor saloons if they wish to do so.

Their success in getting what they wanted two years ago has emboldened the people to use their powers of initiating legislation more fully than before. The result is the batch of proposed legislation given above. The character of it shows that if the amendments proposed by the People's Sovereignty League are adopted as they most surely will be, the party machines and the political boss will be most effectually put out of commission in Oregon.

The satisfaction of the people at being relieved of machine and boss rule was voiced in a recent letter written by Governor George E. Chamberlain of Oregon to Roland T. Patten, of the Maine Referendum League. In his letter explaining the system, Gov. Chamberlain said:

"It is my opinion that the Initiative and Referendum amendment to the constitution will have a most salutary effect in Oregon. In the first place it will make legislative bodies more careful of the people's rights, and will make them hesitate to pass extravagant appropriation

bills and other measures which will not meet with the approval of the people and if demands for healthful legislation are ignored, the people have it in their power to initiate such laws as they may deem necessary for the advancement of their interests and for their protection. One of the noticeable things at the first session of the legislature after the adoption of the amendment referred to, was the decrease in the number of lobbyists, whose vocation it was prior to that to hand around each succeeding legislative assembly * * * * One thing is sure, the party boss and machine are both eliminated from politics, and with them must inevitably go corruption in public life."

Contributions to San Francisco Fund.

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157—Elkhart, Ind.	5 00
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Total	\$1,391 50

THE RIGHTS OF THE LABORING MAN.

One of our greatest historical orators was Patrick Henry. While delivering an address before an audience of our forefathers, proclaimed the following: "Give me liberty, or give me death." In making this utterance, his desire was to impress upon his countrymen the advantages derived from a country where liberty and freedom were free for each and every citizen. He had outlined the sufferings and the practical life of imprisonment of the poor laboring man of other countries, known as monarchies, where the rulers were invested with supreme power to execute their opinions and render their decisions regardless of justice, and through them all grievances were settled. Patrick

Henry was a well learned man of his time and none excelled him. And for this reason his countrymen confided in him and were moved to a great extent by his untiring efforts in behalf of our country. Hence, its constitution and present mode of freedom and justice. Giving each and every citizen the right to express his opinion if he so desires, without fearing execution or expulsion from his country. This means the laboring man as much so as the capitalist. We are all well aware of the fact that the laboring man is looked upon with contempt and disrespect by a certain class of people, but this class have never studied or even considered the labor question; or,

on the other hand, if they have, why; they do not appreciate the necessities of life. Where would they be, and what, if it was not for the nerve, muscle, and skill exerted by the poorly paid working man. Still they make slandering remarks about, and look upon him with contempt and he is classed as a bad character and in their eyes he is the notorious gambler, highwayman and robber, and because he does not wear the best clothes, in their estimation he is not fit to mingle with decent people. Oh; These people, we would pity them, rather than to look upon them with enmity. First, because they do not appreciate the house they live in, the clothes they wear, the fuel they burn, the food they eat, the automobiles and carriages they ride about in, and other means of transportation. The means of communicating with friends and loved ones in distant cities, in fact they really forget, or wilfully ignore the fact that it is from the workingman's knowledge and the sweat of his brow that the comforts these people enjoy every day are derived. Second, because in the near future we will show them that the laboring man is a factor in the country as much so as the capitalist, and we will have justice and freedom, according to that grand declaration of principles drawn up and signed by our noble forefathers on July 4, 1776.

This dates back more than a century and a quarter, can we see any progress that has been made by the laboring man in this space of time. Yes; I dare say each of us after due consideration, can recall the day when each and every craft of work was paying less than half the present scale of wages. To what is this progress due? Is it not the direct outcome of the organization of labor? Are we not in debt to our respective unions for the advantages in having less hours to work and an increase of more than double our former wages? Does not this prove to you that in union there is strength. And are we not showing this strength to the public day by day. The capitalist and corporations are endeavoring by every means to crush the labor organizations, they even go beyond the

limits of the law in trying to crush us. They do not hesitate at any low act to accomplish their desires by bribery and other monied schemes. But on the other hand we are abiding by the laws of our state and country, we are not bribing any one to commit any unlawful act. We do not care to be criticised by the public any longer as to any unlawful actions. But we will have them of their own accord commend and encourage our manly actions. And they without hesitation, will seek to blot out the past differences, and have us become as brothers. Why, because they will be shown that through unionism we have proved ourselves worthy of respect and will be recognized as law abiding citizens instead of the outcast as we are classes today. We can, and will, in the near future refer to these statements and will immediately verify every word herein written. Because unionized and standing by the truthful statements, that in union there is strength we will soon be recognized as the factor of factors. What we mean by terming the labor organization a factor is to the effect that they will be recognized by every corporation and company. And also have representatives in every legal body pertaining to the welfare of our country. Within the ranks of the different labor organizations, there can be found men who are qualified to speak for their fellow workmen, and can use as good English as is used by the man in the office or the politician. We fully realize that a man who speaks before the public constantly can reach the point being argued more readily than can a man inexperienced. But, when the inexperienced man finishes him argument it will be understood by every one and possibly better by some.

In closing, I would admonish every laboring man to become more conversant with the labor question of today by a closer study of our labor journals.

Respectfully submitted,

W. N. MILLER and

W. A. BENNETT,

Local 227, I. B. E. W.

Birmingham, Ala.

BROTHERHOOD.

BY THE REV. CHARLES STELZLE.

"Brotherhood" is a word that men conjure with. It opens the heart and makes the mind alert. Originally, the church was a brotherhood. Including all classes and conditions, it became a factor in the lives of men that caused them to suffer and to sacrifice as nothing else has ever done. It opened the way to revolution. For Christianity literally turned the

world upside down. It brought in a new standard of ethics. It freed the slave. However it may have failed because of human limitations, no historian will dare deny that Christianity has done more to usher in freedom than all other agencies combined. The charities of the early church signified that a religion of brotherhood and mutual helpfulness had arisen

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among men. Modern missions indicate that the most high-blooded peoples on earth recognize their kinship to the most savage and debased.

But "Brotherhood" has in many instances become simply an appeal to selfishness. Frequently, it means only the development of the few to the demoralization of the many. There can be no real brotherhood without a love as wide as the world. There can be no real brotherhood without the Fatherhood of God. The Fatherhood of God implies a care for every one of His children. He sends His rain upon the just and upon the unjust. His provision is for all. Cursed be the man who dares withhold it from God's children—whether he be a monopolist by virtue of his wealth or by reason of his temporary power.

The most beneficent influence of trades unionism is not so much in its helpfulness in securing better pay and shorter hours for those who are already in fairly good circumstances, but in the brave fight that it is making for the woman and the child who suffer because of man's avarice and greed. It is in its efforts to secure better things for the man who toils away, almost forgotten, because his place has been so low that few have heard his cry. May the arm of organized labor be made strong in its defense of those who need its help. And in its efforts in behalf of these, it should have the cooperation of every real "Brotherhood."

"For he today that sheds his blood
with me
Shall be my brother."

The Jay Who Stood Beside.

A Jay who stood beside the way and watched
a lineman climb,
And talk upon a little fone no bigger than
a dime.
What number say what number, is this two
million two,
Is this the Johnson party line or is it double
blue.

Say kid you have them all mixed up for
this is double red,
Go chase yourself and get that cross the
weary wire-chief said.
You never seem to clear a line, I'm sure I
don't know why,
And the fuse blew out on the underground
as the lineman made reply.

The jay was filled with wonder words he
never heard before,
Strange are the freaks of a linemans tongue
when the lineman is good and sore.
He watched the lineman climbing down said
he say mister say,
Can you talk to a man on that little thing
twenty miles away.

How do you manage to find the wire what
do you have to do?
If he can't see you on the pole how does he
know it's you.
The lineman leaned against the pole and
languidly rolled a pill,
I thought said he I had met them all but it
seems there are others still.

I'll string this jay in a proper way if h'ell
lend me a listening ear,
I'll fill his block with fairy tales and stand
him up for the beer.
It's just like this the lineman said to the
eager expectant jay,
When I put this thing on the wires I see
for a million miles away.

I have seen the bands on old Broadway, the
coons in the southern states,
And I've seen the queen of Argentine put a
camel on roller skates.
I've seen the boys with the tangled hair chasing
Nicholas through Saint Pete,
And I coached the Japs when the little chaps
played tag with the Russian fleet.

I've talked to the king of the cannibal Iles
and the Kasier at home with his frow,
And Teddy gets hot if I'm not on the spot
and I reckon he's calling me now.
They ambled down the alley to where Dutch
Looney sat,
Snoring among the droning flies in the line-
mans habitat.

Looney drew the foaming steams with a bar-
keeps proper pride,
And the lineman clinked a foaming stein
with the jay who stood beside.
The lineman shook his good thing down from
nine a. m. till ten,
And as they drained a parting glass Dutch
Looney snored again.

The jay was circling round and round like a
bird with a broken wing,
With a splendid scorn for the care of life
he was doing his best to sing.
His voice was the voice of a genialman that
was mellowed with the forty beers,
When he tried high c in a popular song
Dutch Looney was moved to tears.

He glued his feet on the slippery floor took
a grip on the linemans vest,
And he tried to pillow his wobbly head on
the linemans manly breast,
What the lineman said had a scorching sound
that wouldn't look well in print,
A couple of words and a big long dash you
may guess what it was that he meant.

H. C. COLLINS,
Bakersfield, Cal, May 12, 1906.

Wolf in Sheep's Clothes.

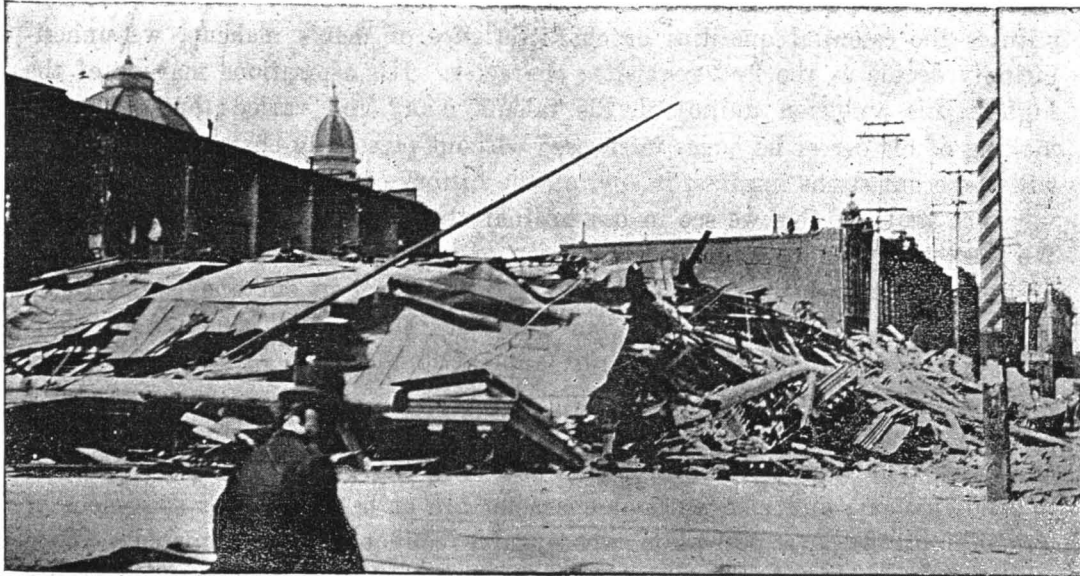
The Crowell Publishing Co., publishers
of "Woman's Home Companion," are suffering the displeasure of the reading public against their attitude toward organized labor by a continuous stream of "stops" and protests. Realizing the gravity of defending a weak position and in order to stem the tide of public denunciation, they have taken up the Child Slavery problem in an attempt to divert attention from the policy pursued in their own institution which makes child slavery possible. The Child Slavery problem is being used by the Crowell Company in order to appropriate to themselves a common feeling, and no doubt every reader of this article will agree that a man or firm having bitter prejudices against labor is not only unfitted for right thinking on the Child Slavery question, but is extremely liable to act in a questionable manner in connection therewith. If they are biased against members of organized labor that bias is sure to work a detriment to the

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children in slavery. It is not only unwise but very dangerous to allow the responsibility for the Child Slavery movement to rest upon the shoulders of a concern that has repeatedly given practical demonstrations of their opposition to decent living conditions, and until they clean their own dirty linen they cannot hope to receive the support or confidence of the public in

a movement that means so much to the welfare of the coming generation.

"Woman's Home Companion" has opened up their Anti Child Slavery League headquarters at Madison Square, New York, and most piteously appeal for subscriptions with the promise of emancipating children from slavery. To prospective subscribers we say "Beware."



PHELAN HALL, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA.

Above is a picture of Phelan hall, as it looked after the earthquake of the 18th of April. Local No. 250 met in the third story of this building the night before the quake. We were glad that it did not happen while the meeting was being held

for then there would have been about thirty-five members of the I. B. E. W. in that pile of brick and timber.

Yours fraternally,

H. L. FOLSOM.

San Jose, Calif., May 12, 1906.

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EDITORIAL.

PETER W. COLLINS.

WHAT MAKES

THE MAN

Human nature in all its aspects, considered either from the individual or collective viewpoint emphasizes the very pertinent truth, expressed by that great poet, Alexander Pope, when he said: "The proper study of mankind is man." In the conception of what constitutes the essential qualities or characteristics of man's makeup, we unhesitatingly decide as the first requisite: character. His aspirations may be of the highest, his ambition unlimited, his talents many and varied; but if in the making of his career he hopes to succeed without possessing character, his efforts will make but slight impress, if any, on the history of men and events.

The truth of this we see in our ordinary every day experience among men. We meet bright men; men of talent, men of brains, clever men, considered exceptionally clever in every sense of the word, and yet in our analysis of them, we know, we are positive there is something lacking and that something is character. We may admire their talents, appreciate the value of their knowledge and yet refuse to place trust in them.

And what is character? Character is the exemplification in men of those attributes that represent truth, honor and integrity. They stand for all that is good in men; and men without character are at best, but poor specimens of humankind. It is a possession whose value cannot be overestimated. When once acquired it makes men better and greater, but when lost is almost impossible to regain.

Let us honor those who possess it, that the example of its possession may act as an inspiration for better things in all men; that each may add his mite for the good of the human family.

LABOR ORGANIZATIONS AS BUSINESS INSTITUTIONS

There seems to be a prevailing impression among many business men who do business with labor organizations, that the aforementioned organizations are formed absolutely and solely for their financial benefit. If an article is purchased instead of charging the market value or a reasonable price, they proceed to add an extra charge because the purchaser is a labor organization.

Now it is not our purpose to decry proper business methods, nor do we object to paying reasonable prices for that which we purchase, but as representatives of labor organizations it is our duty to safeguard those interests placed in our keeping and use the same discretion with the finances of our own organization that we would with our personal accounts.

It has been our privilege to have had an opportunity to contrast some of those conditions in actual practice, and we feel that it is not out of place, but proper, to cite a few examples of just what practical business methods may mean in the conduct of the business affairs of a great organization.

In the publishing of our official journal the ELECTRICAL WORKER, during the two years preceding our entrance upon the duties of Grand Secretary the average cost to the brotherhood for each month the WORKER was printed was \$948.00, or a total for printing the 24 issues of \$22,761.52. For each issue since assuming office the average cost per issue has been \$448, or a total for the seven months of

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THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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\$3,138, a direct saving in the printing of the WORKER of \$500 per month, or \$12,000 for two years. Now as to the advertising contract which was in force during those two years—and which upon its expiration, I refused to renew—The advertising agency received 50 per cent commission on all contracts, 50 per cent on all renewals, whether made by them or through the general office, and 50 per cent on all subscriptions secured, the brotherhood paying the full commission to the agency upon acceptance of contract, while the brotherhood would have to wait until the contract expired before the full payment for same was received.

During those two years advertising contracts and subscriptions to the ELECTRICAL WORKER amounted to\$7,160 18
And commission on same amounted to 5,288 52

Profit to the Brotherhood.....\$1,871 66
Profit to the advertising agency..... 5,288 52

Now as to General Office printing and supplies:

Due cards cost during that time \$ 75 00 for 10,000
We pay 46 00

A direct saving of \$ 29 00 or \$3 per M
Due stamps per million loose sheets \$200 00
We pay in bound book form 50 00

Saving and advantage in book form \$150 00
Local Union letter heads in tab..... \$ 60 00 for 20,000
We pay 40 00

Saving \$ 20 00
Warrant books..... \$ 20 00 per 100
We pay 12 00

Saving \$ 8 00
200 Page ledgers, then \$150 00 per 100
We pay 62 00

Saving \$ 88 00
Financial report blanks (Duplicate) \$160 00 per 20,000
We pay 58 00

Saving \$102 00
Traveling cards, then \$ 75 00 per 10,000
We pay 41 00

Saving \$ 34 00
Minute books \$100 00 per 100
We pay 44 00

Saving \$ 56 00
General Office letter heads \$ 75 00 per 25,000
We pay 36 00

Saving \$ 39 00

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All of the printing including the *ELECTRICAL WORKER* was done in Washington, D. C. Our purpose in citing these examples is not to proclaim that our business methods are superior to all others, but to prove that labor organizations in justice to their entire membership are entitled to fair treatment in their conduct as business institutions.

OUR BROTHERS We are very proud of the fact that our Local Unions in every
ON part of the United States and Canada have responded to the ap-
THE COAST peal which was sent out by the General Office in aid of our
 afflicted members on the coast, and we desire to express our profound thanks for
 the very generous response to our request.

And yet we must again call to the attention of all members the fact that the desolation caused by the disaster cannot be even partly appreciated by anyone other than a witness of this tremendous catastrophe and the appalling results that followed in its wake.

Our brothers in the affected territory are putting their shoulder to the wheel to help in the work of building a bigger and greater city. In this work we owe them our active cooperation and assistance, and that assistance can be best rendered by adding to the fund already started. Let each individual add his donation however small, that the struggle to rise again from the ruins of all their worldly possessions may not be in vain, but that the brotherly fraternity of trade unionism be extended most heartily to them to aid and encourage those noble hearts in the work of the future.

SETTLED After strenuous days of unceasing toil the General Offices are
AT now located in the capital city of Illinois. Final arrangements
SPRINGFIELD were completed for the last shipment of our effects from Wash-
 ington, D. C., on April 27th, and the same arrived at Springfield, May 12th.
 In the interim business of the Brotherhood was, of course, expected to be some-
 what unsettled, for even in the best regulated families, moving days causes
 innumerable inconveniences. But we are here at last in our new quarters with
 splendid prospects for the future.

Our organization is growing rapidly, our resources are constantly increasing, and of necessity our business methods must be up to the standard and equal to all demands made upon it.

In a few months we hope to have a complete system in perfect operation, and the changing over to the card system from the book system will necessitate an immense amount of labor as anyone familiar with matters of this kind can appreciate. Yet, when the work is complete, when new methods are put into force and old ones eliminated we can safely assert that complete satisfaction will be the result.

**DEATH
 CLAIMS**

We must again call to the careful attention of each and every member of the brotherhood the fact that the *Constitution provides that only those members in good standing* on the records at the General Office are entitled to death benefits: Members who fail to acquaint themselves with this fact cannot hold the General Office responsible when death claims are rejected. It is the duty of the Financial Secretary to send per capita

remittance with per capita report each month and not every two or three months. It is also the duty of the individual member to ascertain whether or not the Financial Secretary attends to his duty.

Occasionally we receive a claim from a Local Union which we are compelled by the Constitution to reject. After notice of rejection is received by the Local Union we are later informed that the member paid his dues regularly to the Financial Secretary, but on account of some error or oversight his per capita was not forwarded to the General Office, or was sent three months or more after his dues were paid to the Financial Secretary.

Now while it was evidently the negligence of the Financial Secretary in not sending the same, the General Office cannot be held responsible for such negligence and the claim is therefore rejected.

A condition of affairs similar to the above can be eliminated only by the individual member taking a deep interest in his account with the Financial Secretary and ascertaining each month whether or not the Constitution has been complied with, and per capita sent to the General Office.

And again, a word of advice to those members who are careless enough to allow themselves to go in arrears. Sec. III, Art. XI, reads: "A reinstated member shall not be entitled to benefits until six months after reinstatement, and if reinstated a second time, he shall not be entitled to benefits except as a new member."

Simple facts presented in plain words have won more battles than a regiment of orators.

Have foresight enough to make each dollar you spend return at least its equivalent.

Be sure before you estimate on the other fellow's failings that you are not unconsciously weighing yourself.

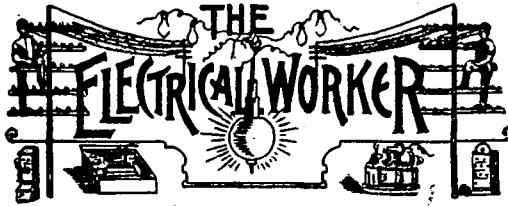
Exercise your best judgment in little things for by constant attention to details perfectness becomes a goal.

Common sense is the foundation upon which our talents are built. Therefore don't blame opportunity for the imperfectness of your foundation.

It may be a good joke to laugh at the fellow who saves a few dollars for a rainy day, but when it does rain rest assured he won't get wet.

When opinions are asked, give your best, and then only after deliberation. Make each day count as a factor in equipping you to surpass the results of yesterday.

Live in the present as well as the future. It may be a splendid thing to think of how great you are to become, but it is far more practical to mark the mile posts as you go.



Official Journal of the

INTERNATIONAL

Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Published Monthly.

PETER W. COLLINS, Editor and Publisher
Pierik Building, Springfield, Illinois.

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Grand President—F. J. McNULTY,
Pierik Building, Springfield, Ill.
Grand Secretary—PETER W. COLLINS,
Pierik Building, Springfield, Ill.
Grand Treasurer—F. J. SULLIVAN,
Pierik Building, Springfield, Ill.

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Erie, Pa.
Second G. V. P.—JAMES P. NOONAN,
3129 Adams St., St. Louis, Mo.
Third G. V. P.—MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN,
265 Pierce St., San Francisco, Cal.

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Second District—JOHN J. McLAUGHLIN,
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222 St. Mary St., San Antonio, Texas.
Seventh District—CHAS. P. LOFTHOUSE,
505 E. 25th St., Los Angeles, Cal.

Subscription, \$1.00 per Year, in Advance.

As The Electrical Worker reaches the men who do the work and recommend or order the material, its value as an advertising medium can be readily appreciated.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., JUNE, 1906.

Advertising rates may be secured by writing to the Editor.

This Journal will not be held responsible for views expressed by correspondents.

The Third of each month is the closing date; all copy must be in our hands on or before.



Illinois State Journal Co., Springfield.

Financial Secretaries.

When an ex-member from a Local Union which has gone out of existence desires to be reinstated, the sum of 60 cents per month for each month he is in arrears should be sent to the General Office. Upon receipt of the same due and traveling cards are issued to him.

When a member in arrears from a Local that is in good standing at the General Office desires to be reinstated in another Local Union, consent of his Local Union must first be secured.

On page 8, second column of the May WORKER, the printer made a very serious error, and inserted the clause, "that money should not be sent by P. O. Money Order or Registered Letter," when our instructions are to send it in just that manner.

Writer requests for information on separate sheets and not on Per Capita report blanks or order for supplies.

In sending in death claims be sure all papers accompany claim. Also, the name of person to whom claim should be paid.

Don't enclose postage stamps in payment for per capita or supplies, unless it is inconvenient to send P. O., Registered Letter or Check.

When making out checks see that the amount covers the order and is clearly written upon the check.

Remittances must accompany all orders.

If you over pay on per capita, your overpayment can only be applied to per capita. If you over pay on initiations the same rule applies as the amounts are credited against these accounts. Therefore don't ask to have a per capita over payment applied to an order for supplies or initiations.

NOTICE.

OAKLAND, CAL., April 21, 1906.

P. W. Collins, Esq.,

Grand Secretary, I. B. E. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir and Brother:

According to Article XIV., Secs. 8 and 9 of the I. B. E. W. Constitution, I hereby notify you that Local Unions No. 6, 151, 283 and 404 being all the Locals in San Francisco and Oakland, are in the most serious difficulty of their existence, and will not receive traveling cards until further notice. Will you kindly publish such notice in the WORKER until you are notified to discontinue.

Faternally yours,

J. L. Cook,

Sec.-Treas. Pacific Council, I. B. E. W.
1414 8th ave.

NOTICE.

I have resigned as Financial Secretary of Local No. 112, to take effect June 1, 1906. Bro. E. W. Gray, 400 W. Breck has been elected to fill out balance of

term. I wish to thank the officers and members of the brotherhood in general for the assistance they have given to me.

Yours fraternally,
JOHN STULCK,
Secretary No. 121.

NOTICE.

Inside wiremen stay away from Cincinnati; strike on.

J. A. CULLEN,
Local No. 212.
1125 Vine st.

St. Louis, Mo., April 30, 1906.
Peter W. Collins, Esq.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir and Brother:
Kindly find space in May WORKER for the following Notice:
"To all Secretaries:

Locals Nos. 1, 2, 59, 462 have moved their offices and headquarters to Electrical Workers hall, 928 N. 17th st. In future kindly send all mail to new address."

Local No. 2 meets every Friday night in the month at 928 N. 17th st.

Executive Board meets every Thursday night in the month at 928 N. 17th st.

John T. Kline, President, 928 N. 17th st.
Harry Meyers, Financial Secretary, 928 N. 17th st.

H. V. English, Recording Secretary, 928 N. 17th st.

Kindly make changes and oblige.

Yours fraternally,
HARRY MEYERS.

NOTICE.

SHERMAN, TEXAS, May 1, 1906.
Peter W. Collins,

Grand Secretary, I. B. E. W.
Dear Sir and Brother:

As Recording Secretary, I was instructed to write you in regard to receiving traveling cards. We will not accept any for ninety days as we are looking for some trouble with the telephone companies. We have presented them with our agreements. We had to come to some kind of a scale. Don't think we will have any trouble with the Independent.

Will write again, soon.

Respectfully,
J. B. DOUGHERTY,
R. S. of No. 272, I. B. E. W.

NOTICE.

If Ed. Willie sees this he will write to the parties he is indebted to or Jas. Daller, Financial Secretary of No. 109; or, if any one knows of his whereabouts write either Local No. 109 or No. 278.

Fraternally,

B. A. STEPHENS,
Financial Secretary Local No. 109.
542 16th st., Rock Island, Ill.

NOTICE.

CINCINNATI, O., May 7, 1906.

Peter W. Collins,
Springfield, Ill.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Strike on at Cincinnati and Suburban Bell Telephone Co. No traveling cards accepted and will say we have every hope of a victory. The boys are game and the company only have four or five rats left. Please be a little more careful with our mailing list as a great many of the boys are complaining of not getting WORKERS. I will send you a new list for next month as we will have about 50 or 75 new members by that time I think.

Yours fraternally,
C. L. PAGE.

417 Chestnut st.

NOTICE.

Please give the notice that C. J. Jones of No. 438, and Will Smothers of No. 295, having been called out with the linemen of the Southern Bell Telephone Co., have both violated their obligation by returning to work before the settlement of said trouble and are to be treated as *common scabs*.

Yours fraternally,
W. E. BARR, P. S.

NOTICE.

Peter W. Collins,
Grand Secretary,
Springfield, Illinois.

I desire to call your attention to the fact that there is a general strike throughout this district, and would request that you insert notice of same in WORKER.

FRANK FLANAGAN,
Local Union No. 24.
Minneapolis, Minn.

NOTICE.

PITTSFIELD, MASS., April 1, 1906.

Peter W. Collins,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Will you put the following in the ELECTRICAL WORKER and let it stay there until some information is given as to the whereabouts of one R. J. Setcliff, electrician, who is wanted by the Pittsfield police. R. J. Setcliff is 5 feet, 4 inches in height, light complexion, weight 128 pounds, smooth face.

Setcliff came to this town three weeks ago and was asked for his card and he said that he was from Fall River and would have to send for it. He was allowed to work on this which he did for a week and then disappeared and at the same time \$105.00, a gold watch and ring walked away too, on the same job he was working on the day he left. Any in-

formation as to the above please notify L. L. Mullett, Recording Secretary No. 264., Pittsfield, Mass.

Will say that the new scale of wages went in effect today, May 1, 1906. \$3.00 per day, 8 hours—journeymen.

The above scale was granted without any trouble.

NOTICE.

DENVER, COLO., May 5, 1906.

Peter W. Collins,

Washington, D. C.

Brother E. B. Ellis lost his card, No. 12136 either in Kansas City or Richmond, Mo., and I wish you would put note in the next issue of the WORKER in regard to picking it up if presented in any Local, as No. 121 has given him a new card. With best wishes, I am

Fraternally yours,

S. H. CLEARY.

1223 Welton st.

NOTICE.

CHICAGO, ILL., April 28, 1906.

Peter W. Collins,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Please insert in the WORKER, the following:

Local Union No. 381 has been locked out since April 1st. All fixture hangers are warned to stay away from Chicago until further notice.

Yours fraternally,

CHAS. M. HALL,

Rec. Secretary No. 381.

NOTICE.

DULUTH, MINN., May 18, 1906.

Peter W. Collins,

Grand Secretary,

Springfield, Illinois.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Kindly advertise for W. J. Gendson, apprentice lineman, left here January 25th, on traveling card. Administrator's of his father's estate want his address. It is to his advantage to reply.

Yours fraternally,

R. S. HARTLEY.

PORTLAND, ORE., May 10, 1906.

To the ELECTRICAL WORKER and Brothers:

We, the members of Local Union No. 125, having on April 30th, imposed a fine of \$100, and suspended Bro. Geo. Turner, better known as "Roundy" Turner, who having scabbed on Local Union No. 9, of Chicago and came to Portland and made application to No. 125 as a new member and having found out by a traveling brother, acknowledged to be true and was sentenced as above.

Therefore, we, the members of No. 125 do hereby request all local workers to be on the lookout for the said ex-brother,

R. BURTON,

Recording Secretary.

General Delivery.

NOTICE.

VANCOUVER, B. C., May 28, 1906.

Peter W. Collins,

Springfield, Illinois.

Dear Sir and Brother:

At our regular meeting May 9th, the following motion was passed: That we place a fine of \$100 against ex-Bro. William B. Harris and have him published in our official journal. Initiated by No. 213, January 11, 1906; Card No. 48,720.

We have also a fine of \$100 against another member, Peter McNeish. Initiated October 24, 1905, by No. 213; Card No. 48,712. Both of the above are scabbing through our present strike against the Telephone Company of this town.

Would you also ask linemen to keep away from Vancouver.

W. E. MANNING,

President Local No. 213.

NOTICE.

ERIE, PA., June 1, 1906.

Peter W. Collins,

Grand Secretary,

Springfield, Illinois.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Strike in Erie with Light Companies. Both inside and outside. Keep all men away for further notice.

Fraternally,

J. F. ST. CLAIR.

1618 State.

INFORMATION.

If Alex. McPhee will see his notice, will he please write to his brother, A. D. McPhee, Golden Eagle Hotel, Reno, Nev.

INFORMATION.

MOBILE, ALA., May 5, 1906.

Brothers:

Can you give me any information as to the whereabouts of John Green. He is a lineman and left Jacksonville, Fla., about one year ago and I do not know his card number, but was carrying a card the last time I heard from him. His wife and family are very anxious about him.

Yours fraternally,

L. A. LYTZ.

Mobile, Ala.

INFORMATION.

If E. C. Jones of Local No. 318, Knoxville, Tenn., sees this ad, please drop me a line. Also any one knowing the whereabouts of George Sweeney, please write.

WILL FARRINGTON.

Leeds, Mo.

Peter W. Collins, Grand Secretary,
Springfield, Ill.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Please publish the following in the
next month's WORKER:

If Bro. P. H. Jones sees this, please
communicate with Financial Secretary
Local Union No. 356. Very important.

Yours fraternally,

C. F. DROLLINGER,

Financial Secretary Local Union No. 356.

If Bro. P. H. Jones will see this notice,
he will please write to C. F. Drollinger,
Financial Secretary Local Union No. 356,
Important.

INFORMATION.

HAMMOND, IND., May 28, 1906.

Peter W. Collins,

Springfield, Illinois.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Will you kindly insert in next WORKER
this advertisement:

If Brother Ed. Hammon, who was at
Pasadena, Calif., last winter, write me
at once; good news.

BRO. H. A. BURNS.

New Erie Hotel.

INFORMATION.

LEEDS, Mo., May 30, 1906.

Peter W. Collins,

Springfield, Illinois.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Will you please publish the following
few lines in the WORKER for me:

Earl C. Jones and George Sweeney, if
either of you see this put a few lines to
me.

WILL FARRINGTON.

Peter W. Collins,

509-10-11 Corcoran Bldg.,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Will you kindly insert these few lines
in the next issue of the ELECTRICAL
WORKER:

Would like to know whereabouts of
Daniel Herring, telephone man. Please
address Robert S. McIntire, 1204 North
street, Philadelphia, Pa.

If there will be any charges for the
above insertion please notify me of the
charge and oblige.

Yours fraternally,

ROB'T S. MCINTIRE.

1204 North st.

DECEASED MEMBERS.

William H. Finch, Local Union No. 61.

Edward Brunzell, Local Union No. 126.

Local Union No. 426.

WHEREAS, It has pleased Almighty God
to take out of this world the soul of our
beloved brother, Asa R. Young; be it

Resolved, That the departure from our
midst of Brother Young, leaves an aching
void in our hearts; and in the hearts of
all who knew him. And to know him
was to love him for his unfailing kind-
ness of heart and thoughtfulness for
others. Be it further

Resolved, That we tender our heartfelt
sympathy to his grief-stricken relatives;
and, be it further

Resolved, That we drape our charter
for a period of thirty days; that we send
a copy of these resolutions to his wife;
a copy to our official journal and the
local papers for publication therein; and
that a copy be spread in full upon the
minutes of this Local.

COMMITTEE, Local Union No. 426.
Portsmouth, N. H.

Local Union No. 184.

At a meeting of Galesburg Local No.
184, I. B. E. W., held May 8, 1906, the fol-
lowing resolutions were endorsed by
unanimous vote:

WHEREAS, He who giveth, has taken
from among us our beloved brother,
Richard Hardin McCullough, who, dur-
ing his short stay in our midst had won
our warmest friendship and had, to a
very unusual degree identified himself
with our work and interests; therefore,
be it

Resolved, That we extend to the rela-
tives of the departed, our heartfelt sym-
pathy in their bereavement; and, be it
further

Resolved, That as a reminder of our
own loss, our charter be draped in mourn-
ing for thirty days.

It is ordered also that a copy of these
resolutions be sent to the relatives of the
deceased at Honey Grove, Texas, and
that copies be furnished to the ELEC-
TRICAL WORKER and to the Galesburg
papers.

J. E. McMEEN,

Rec. Sec. No. 184.

Hardin McCullough met his death May
2d, by getting the full current of a 2,300
volt main line, while disconnecting it at
a junction pole. The current apparently
passed through one hand only, but the
shock was sufficient to stop his heart in-
stantly. No. 184 has lost a valuable mem-
ber, and his mother has lost a faithful
and loving son.

COMMON SENSE ON THE LABOR QUESTION.

BY HERBERT N. CASSON.

Some writers and orators, who know less about the labor question than they do about the North Pole, declare that trade unions destroy personal liberty and keep all the workers down to "a dead level of sloth and incompetency."

This is just as true as to say that the seats in a street car destroy the liberty of the passengers to stand up.

There never was a more shameless fraud than this "right to work" proposition, in the way that it is being put forward by the trusts. The right to work for nothing is not a right; it is a wrong.

When a body of workmen are being treated with a gross injustice, when their employer contemptuously refuses even to arbitrate, and when they choose to be strikers rather than slaves, the "scabs" who take their places are morally criminals.

It is legal to be a "scab" in such a case. There is no law against the "scab" any more than there is against the monopolist or the Wall street plunger. But the harm wrought to the nation by these three is as great as that done by burglars or counterfeiters.

No man has a right to make himself a menace to the community or nation in which he lives. The man who is beastly enough to be satisfied to live in a pigstye has no right to endanger the public health by his unclean habits.

In everything else except money making and the labor question it is a principle of law that no one has a right to be a public nuisance or a public menace.

Do we not quarantine a man's private house and violate its privacy in a dozen ways if he or any of his family have a contagious disease?

What becomes of the sanctity of the home when the home contains a case of cholera?

How long would we permit a man to play a cornet in an apartment house from midnight until 2 o'clock in the morning?

Would we not hear the peremptory knock of the janitor and a policeman in less than half an hour? And how much would his plea of "individual rights" amount to?

I do not mean to say that a worker who tries, ignorantly or deliberately, to break up a trade union should be treated like a cholera patient or a drunken musician, but only to show that the rights of the individual stop where social injury begins.

Of course, there should be no violence. Violence is advocated only by anarchists and military generals, and neither of these are to be found in the membership of labor organizations.

But there should not be either any public commendation of the "scabs" who place themselves directly in the path of social progress, and who, if successful, make liberty impossible for their fellow workers.

There is a vast difference between the "scab" and the mere nonunionist. Non-unionists are those workers who drudge along like "dumb, driven cattle," taking no part in the great industrial struggles that are being waged around them; but "scabs" are those who take an active part in the fight against the workers of their own trade.

The "scab" in nearly every case is like the horse in a burning stable, who not only refuses to come out, but kicks and bites the brave firemen who goes to his rescue.

The union is battling to benefit every one in the trade, "scabs" included. The increase in wages obtained by the coal miners will be paid to the 17,000 "scabs" who tried to break up the strike, as well as to the 150,000 strikers who went through poverty and hardship for five months to obtain it.

The activity of the "scab" is suicidal. He injures himself as well as his mates. All the millions of the corporation are not as deadly to the union as his obstinate traitorship. If this fact is kept in mind, the hatred of the trade unionist for the "scab" can be seen to have some justification.

What are trade unions organized for, if not to obtain more personal liberty for their members? Can anyone seriously imagine that a body of men will band together and pay dues for years for the sake of getting less personal liberty than they have?

What does liberty mean? Is a man free who has nothing to say about his wages and his hours of labor? Is a man free who takes the harshness and the whip as obediently as a cart horse? Is a man free whose only aim in life is to do what he is told and take what he is offered? If this is freedom, then the trusts must have a peculiar dictionary of their own.

No man is free who has not something to say about the conditions under which he works.

The free man today is he who has some money in the bank, who is out of debt, who works a fair length of time for a fair amount of money, and who can, personally or through his union, remedy any injustice from which he may be suffering.

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If the wage workers do not protect their own interests, who will? Will the politician? Will the college professor? Will the Supreme Court?

As for the trustmakers, they are racing to see who shall be the first billionaire, and they have no time to think of the insignificant \$2 a day atoms who wriggle about in their great mines and factories.

If workingmen had no unions there is no limit to the wrongs they would suffer at the hands of despotic capitalists. The misery of the victim would be as limitless as the greed of the oppressor. The competition in luxury now being waged by millionaires and their wives would cause one reduction to follow another in quick succession.

Whenever a new palace was built, or a million dollars given to a college, or a daughter married to a duke, another 10 per cent cutdown would be ordered or another hour added to the length of the day's work.

The trade union civilizes the capitalist. It prevents him from making a Persian Shah of himself. It draws a line between fair play and oppression and says: "Thus far, and no farther shall you go."

It says to him: "This is America and not Russia; and you must do business the American way." It transforms the wage earners from human machines into human beings.

Fifty years ago, when ten workers worked side by side with their employer in a little wooden factory, each separate workman counted for something. He called his employer by name and was free to give advice about the business. He was much more like a partner than a hired hand.

But in the gigantic plants that now exist one worker counts for as little as a leaf on a tree. The bigger the plant the smaller the workman, is a truth that most American wage earners have found out by experience.

This shrinkage of the workman can only be overcome in two ways—by organization or by some catastrophe which greatly reduces the number of workingmen in the country. The latter happens occasionally, as after the black plague in Europe and during the Civil War in America, but it can hardly be recommended as a plan of reform.

Organization is, therefore, the only expedient by which the worker can retain any individual rights whatever. If he has no right to set a minimum price upon his labor, then the grocer has no right to set a price upon his groceries and the physician has no right to fix his own fee. When any body of people are prevented from combining for mutual profit, business stops and slavery begins.

The trade unionist believes in evolution, not revolution. He knows that the only way to hasten the "happy time a-coming" is by education and organization

—by slow, steady, persevering work. He cannot be deceived by the delusion that a new social system can be built up in a night, like Aladdin's palace, by some political "presto change" hocus pocus.

He has found out how hard it is to teach thousands of wage workers the A, B, C. of unionism, and how impossible to make them understand the plans and specifications of an ideal co-operative commonwealth.

The trade unionist has no sympathy with the hot-headed crank or anarchist who stands on the street corner and yells "Down with the rich!"

He knows from long experience how little such "hot air" amounts to. As the old song says:

"Talk is cheap, but that won't keep
•A wife and little baby."

He knows that unionism has in the last hundred years cut down the hours of labor from fourteen to eight and nine and raised wages from fifty cents to \$2, \$3, \$4 and \$5 a day; while all the screaming of revolutionists and waving of red flags have not added one cent to the pay envelope or cut one minute off his hours of labor.

The position of the unionist can be at once seen from the following two declarations, made by two men who have no superiors in the world as successful labor leaders:

Samuel Gompers says:

"I look forward to the time when the representatives of organized labor in a particular industry or plant, as the case may be, with the representatives of the organization of capital, may meet around the table and discuss the questions which affect us mutually—not by strife and not by force—and to put these elements behind us and hold them only as an absolute last resort, not to be used wantonly in the lockout on the one hand, or the strike on the other."

John Mitchell says:

"I do not believe that in our country there should be an irreconcilable conflict between labor and capital. Notwithstanding the fact that I have gone through quite a number of strikes, I have not yet abandoned my opinion that if the representatives of capital and the representatives of labor can be brought together, if they can sit down in honest conference, if they will look one another straight in the eye and tell one another the absolute truth, I believe when that is done that the day of conflict between labor and capital shall end."

Both of these great leaders look forward to a higher, nobler social system, in which there shall be no unearned profit or parasitism of any kind; but they also know that in the long march toward the socialized civilization, class war and revolution would mean delay and disaster.

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The sensible workingman in America, if not in Europe, knows that the revolutionist has nothing but talk and promises and word pictures and denunciations.

The progress of the labor movement is greatly hampered by the small number of men who are at heart disloyal to trade unionism, but who are remaining in the unions for purposes of agitation.

These agitators are in most cases earnest and honest men, but in every case they are lacking in common sense and practical ability.

They are so childish, so ignorant of the practical steps by which progress is made that their main object is to pass redhot resolutions against the "capitalist class," and in favor of "public ownership of everything in sight."

These revolutionists have no confidence in trades unionism, to which the workers of America owe everything they have gained in the last hundred years, yet they have the most unbounded confidence in politics, to which the workers of America owe little or nothing.

The men whom they hold up as leaders and teachers are Europeans—Marx, Engels, Lasalle, Guesde, Liebknecht, Bebel, Jaures, Ferri and Kaustky, great and useful men in their own countries—but not one of whom has ever been in America or knows the facts about American industrial evolution.

What is stranger still, these revolutionists claim at the present time a monopoly of the word "Socialism," although their Utopian theories and their destructive tactics plainly mark them out as anti-Socialists in the most extreme sense.

In short, they are men who know little about the long history of the labor movement, and fancy that human nature and human institutions can be changed in a couple of hours by a big political hullabaloo.

They are intoxicated by an economic theory, and naturally want every one else to become drunk.

The average trade unionist takes the same attitude toward them that he does toward the Salvation Army—he respects their earnestness, he pities their childishness, he doubts their judgment and he dislikes their fanaticism.

The activity and proselytizing of these "made in Germany" revolutionists compels the trade union to fight against foes without and foes within.

The valuable time of meetings and conventions, which should be spent in businesslike grappling with practical prob-

lems, is continually stolen by these revolutionists for the purpose of firing a confiscatory revolution against the trusts, which resolution the trusts fear about as much as a volley of goose feathers.

Every trade union defeat is held up by them with delight. "Aha," they cry, "didn't we tell you so? Now will you drop your old-fashioned unionism and join our Socialist Tammany Hall?"

It is their expressed desire to bring about an uprising in the United States similar to the French Revolution, and to wipe out all employers as completely as the French Revolution wiped out the nobility of France, as if there were any strong similarity between the two classes.

The fact that the French Revolution was followed by Napoleon and eighty years of war and imperialism, before the present republic was established is entirely forgotten by these agitators.

Their motto seems to be, "A bird in the bush is worth two in the hand." They would risk the whole structure of trade unionism in a political game of craps, just as a gang of boys have been known to set fire to a house for the excitement of seeing the fire department turn out.

They complain of the slowness of trade union methods, without seeing that the quickest way is often no way at all. If, for instance, a man were on top of a third story skyscraper, the quickest way to get down would be to jump off the roof. This would no doubt be the scientific revolutionary method, and the slight fact that he would be picked up in half a dozen baskets would not interfere with its logic.

The long and short of the matter is that there are two methods of social discontent, just as there are two ways of running a hotel—there is the European plan and the American plan.

The European plan is to put one class against another, to split the nation in two and fight until either side swallows up the other, to let conditions get worse and at last to have a social explosion.

The American plan is to band together all good citizens, of whatever class, against one abuse after another, to organize the workers by trades and professions to hold fast every gain that has been made and to constantly reach out for more, to refuse to be the tools of corporations, political bosses or revolutionists, and in this way to establish peaceably and permanently the complete self-rule of the common people.

TWO FORCES-ONE LEADER.

BY THE REV. CHARLES STELZLE.

"Lift the stone, and thou shalt find Me.
Cleave the wood, and there am I."

—*Sayings of Jesus.*

Whether or not these words were actually spoken by Jesus Christ, as is supposed by those who recently discovered a manuscript containing them, makes but little difference. There is already sufficient evidence to indicate that Christ and the toiler are not very far removed. The birth, the life, and the death of Christ, give Him a claim upon the common people, and the common people are justified in their insistence that Jesus belongs to them. Whatever may be the opinion of the average workingman with regard to the church, his devotion to Jesus Christ is, in most cases, unquestioned. This is a hopeful sign. Without the rugged strength that comes from and with the common people, the churches are sure to fail. But without the moral and spiritual vision that comes from Christ, the people are bound to perish.

The organized church and the organized labor movement have each in them the elements which are working for a stronger brotherhood and a greater democracy, because these elements are founded upon the teachings of Jesus Christ. As the leaders in each movement come to know each other better, they are recognizing that they have so many

things in common that they wonder why there should ever have been any differences between them. There are, and always will be men in both movements, with narrow vision, who will see only one side of the great cause which engages the attention of both church and labor. But in spite of this serious handicap, the time is coming when men will see that neither side can afford to ignore the other. There will come so close a knitting together because of the strong religious element in the labor movement, and because of the growing social spirit in the church, that it will become a question as to whether the labor movement will capture the church, or whether the church will capture the labor movement.

That time may not be in the very near future, but there is absolutely no doubt as to its final consummation. For every great cause which has for its supreme object the making of better men and women, physically, socially, mentally and morally, will come into affiliation, for the most successful carrying on of their work although each shall continue to perform its peculiar functions.

The important thing is that we both keep close to Christ, in our ideals, in our aspirations, and in our work. Then we shall never be very far apart, and neither of us can go very far wrong.

THE ATTACKS ON UNIONISM.

BY J. E. JENNINGS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

The maintenance of industrial peace, a condition for which all should work, is impossible so long as greed overrules the judgment of employers, particularly that section allied with the so-called citizens' industrial association. The truth of this assertion is to be found in the well-known fact that those employers not affiliated with any organization seldom have trouble with their men. Those employers who never think of the interests of their men and who regard them as so many nonentities that can be treated as they will, without any regard for the men's feelings and rights, may always expect trouble. Indeed they invite it. Any one who goes about with a chip on his shoulder usually gets that for which he looks.

The conventions of the citizens' industrial association are naught but an incentive to fighting the men. When they are over, fighting between masters and men occurs in various industries. The

demand for the open shop contains a lie on its face, inasmuch as it professes to discriminate against neither union nor "independent" labor. It were idle to deny that it is a blow against unionism. The unions quickly decided that the movement is against them; their leaders were not blind. It is not to be gainsaid that it were far better for the capitalist to abandon the scheme of trying to down the men by brute force, a plan that has so far been tried with very poor success.

Workmen have the constitutional right to organize for the purpose of securing higher wages, a shorter workday, or improving their relations with the employers. They also have the right to strike in order to secure better terms of employment for themselves. Therefore, as the demand for the open shop means longer hours and less pay, no matter what may be said to the contrary, they have the right to strike against the enforcement of the open shop. They have

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the right to solicit and persuade others not belonging to their union to quit work also, unless the common employer of all gives his assent to lawful conditions designed to improve their material welfare. The law in the state of New York is in favor of the all-union shop. The decision in the case of the National Protective Association of Steamfitters and Helpers vs. Canning was in favor of the closed shop, and since then in other states the same question has arisen frequently. The courts of Wisconsin and Illinois have, I believe, decided in favor of the open shop. To use a famed expression, "Where are we at?"

An oldtime sage, the Grecian Epictetus, said that difficulties are things that show what men are. The trials that the union man will undergo in his fight against the open shop will show us his caliber. He may not coerce another into doing what he does not wish to do, but there will be no harm done if he point out to the non-unionist or to his employer that very little is needed to make their respective lives happy.

Union smashing is sometimes openly avowed, but more often that fell purpose is disguised. Indeed the citizens' industrial alliance avers that it does not aim to smash the unions, and that it has no hostility toward them as such; but no union man is foolish enough to take any stock in those assertions. All evidence is to the contrary. The National Civic Federation declares that the so-called "citizens' alliance aim to destroy all organizations of labor with which negotiation is possible." With disorganized labor they can do as they will.

But the unions will not have this state of things. For one thing, they can not afford to be wiped out and have the fruits of the organized energy of half a century thrown to the winds. That the unions are not blind to the trend of these masters' associations is shown by their unwillingness to co-operate with them in their efforts "to create a spirit of reasonableness among the men." Indifference is the keynote struck by the labor leaders who have been asked for their opinions regarding this comparatively new force in the industrial situation, all appearing to think unionism too strongly entrenched to make other than abortive any attempt to do away with the closed shop.

It is gratifying to think that union labor is so strongly entrenched, but at the same time it should not be forgotten that here and there the batteries of the enemy will unmask and endeavor to wipe out the strongholds of the union men. It appears that when so much "sniping" (to borrow another military term) is going on the men must necessarily be on the defensive until they see what the employers are going to do and how far the open shop idea is going to spread,

and that consequently they must prepare themselves for all emergencies. Some unions are doing this and are already endeavoring to get the non-union men in their trades into the unions as soon as possible. They will then be in a position to carry the war into the enemy's country. Let the good work go on!

Bitter, indeed, are the attacks on unionism. The Jarryites are the chief offenders in this respect. The bitterness of their attacks has in many cases proved a boomerang. The efforts to get New York employers to join their association have been discouraging, inasmuch as those employers do not take kindly to the idea of clergymen, lawyers and other citizens not engaged in business mixing up in their trade affairs. After one convention in New York, the following anonymous document was scattered throughout that city. Ordinarily it were well to take no notice of anonymous attacks, but in this case it is deemed advisable to show the readers of THE WORKER what kind of an enemy they have to deal with. To use an expressive phrase of the day, they do not know what they are up against until they read the following reproduction of this precious document:

TRADE UNIONS.

Trade unions are bands of men, who inflict injury on those who fail to accede to their lawless demands. It is therefore the duty of the people to rid the country of trade unions.

Trade unionism is rarely discussed; if it were, trade unions would soon cease to exist. The trade unions carefully avoid discussing trade unionism in their publications and in their public utterances.

The trade unionists assume that lawless deeds are right if done by themselves. The law that applies to others should apply to them also.

An organization to be lawful must be composed of a voluntary membership. The great part of the men in unions are got there and kept there by force.

The means used to compel men to join the unions and to keep them there are unfair lists, and entertainment committees, labels and brass knuckles, cards and lead pipe, fines and sandbags, assessments and wrecking crews, shotguns, torch and dynamite.

The law says men must be free to buy, sell and use material that it is lawful to buy, sell or use; it also says a man must be free to pursue his chosen vocation. These laws are so just and so essential to the higher development of the individual and to the true growth of a nation that they are believed in by all right-minded men. For this reason only the low minded can be got into the unions except by force.

The trade unionists demand that the man must give them money to pursue his

vocation, that a boy must give them money to learn a trade, that a man must give them money who buys material the use of which they have forbidden, that a man must discharge a boy who is learning a trade under conditions different from those which they permit. For all this they have no authority in law; so in order to enforce these demands, they injure property, strike down men, or both.

There never came before a people a plainer proposition than that of trade unionism. It is simply a question as to whether the laws made by the regularly constituted law-making authorities are to prevail.

For bare-faced lying this precious effusion outdoes most of the attacks on unionism in the anti-union press. It is about as contemptible an attack as could be conceived by a low order of intelligence. No wonder it was anonymous—and consequently scurrilous. It makes one indignant to think that such base assassins are to be found among our people. We can afford to smile contemptuously at such unworthiness, but at the same time we can not overlook the fact that such stabs in the dark will have an effect upon those who are opposed to unionism. There is not a single union man who will not indignantly deny the allegations in this document and at the same time wish he knew its author.

We are taught to think that anything anonymous is worthless. Such is usually the case, but there is warranty for giving this screed publicity in order that its assertions and falsities may be denied with all the vigor that can be imparted to a denial. These and similar attacks form the basis of the right of the employer to hire cheap workmen, scabs if necessary, to take the place of good ones. Such attacks will tend to strengthen the determination of the workman to work with whomsoever he pleases, not with those the boss would thrust upon him. The workmen have the right to tell the non-unionist that they do not wish to work with him or his like, and if he thinks well enough of his welfare he will so conduct himself that the others will work with him. It is merely a law of life, not altogether of unionism.

The fight against the open shop is in its infancy, so far as the workman is concerned. Long may it remain so, is a consummation devoutly to be desired. It can not be conceived that union men will give up, without a struggle, all they have gained. Through their influence the hours of labor in numerous industries have been lowered from twelve and fourteen hours a day to nine and eight, and wages have been fixed at a figure commensurate with the economic conditions of the country. Had they done nothing but shorten hours of labor they would be entitled to praise, for such shortening has given employment to men who would

otherwise have gone idle, and enabled the union man to devote more of his time to self-improvement and to other duties. We need hardly speak of the good done for superannuated members and those out of work. If the unions did not give superannuation and out of work benefits the cost of maintaining men in workhouses and hospitals would have fallen upon taxpayers. The latter never think of the good done by unions in thus relieving their pockets by self-imposed taxation, but they might as well be reminded of this beneficent feature of unionism.

The more one dissects the purpose concealed in the demand for the open shop or obliteration of unionism, the more one sees that it conceals a combination dangerous to public welfare; that it is the deadly enemy of unionism and its rights. It will ruin all whom it chooses to ruin, and, if possible, it will crush all who have the hardihood to oppose it. What is true of it applies also to the local association in various parts of the land.

Let us fight it and its associates. Temperorizing will not avail, nor can we afford to be supine in the matter. If our industrial efficiency is superior to that of other nations—the capitalistic press claims in season and out of season that it is—it is mainly due to better conditions of life in the everyday matters of food, clothing and housing, and education. Our betterment in these conditions arises from our fealty to our union, for without the latter we would be reduced to a status that is well-nigh unimaginable. Modern industrial methods in the United States make labor organization little short of imperative. That is conceded by the New York Sun, a virulent opponent of unionism. That being so, our duty is plain—we must organize and stay organized. There is no other course open for the man who means to have a proper return for his labor. He must fight the new phase of organized greed concealed in the demand for the open shop.

Organization has been a powerful factor in the upward social movement among the working classes. No one can be so foolish as to deny this. Nor need there be mentioned the helpful influences without end that have been brought to bear upon the community by wisely led unionism. The labor man does not forget that the really important object of organization is the welfare of all, and he cordially invites the non-union man to take this point into consideration. The true union man recognizes this and denies all assertions to the contrary. Indeed he wonders that anyone can disagree with him on this point, and perforce must look for the concealed motive of those who argue otherwise.

What with the insidious attacks and the open attacks to which unionism is now exposed, the outlook for industrial

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peace is not bright, but a firm and united front and a repulse of all attacks will go a long way toward making the enemy retreat. Far better would it be if the employers were to try to gain the esteem and affection of their men and make workaday life so pleasant that disturbances would seldom occur. They should apply the virtue of the golden rule toward the solution of the vexatious problem of the present antagonism between capital and labor. It is without doubt to the best interest of the employer to have his men satisfied with their work and wages and friendly toward him. The men will always welcome such an attitude. It is encouraging to hear that here and there such conditions do obtain and that both parties are satisfied. Indeed there would seldom be cause for dissatisfaction if the men were treated right or half-way right. There are none so blind and obtuse as those who know not of the truth and magnetism that dwell in the operation of the golden rule. Those who demand the open shop are blindest of all, and are working on a false theory.

The workman would be in a poor way indeed if the organized capitalists of the country had their own way entirely. They dictate the tariff that the country shall enforce against the foreigner, and they strike fear into the heart of the average voter by declaring that the country will go to the demnition bow-wows if the tariff is lowered in any respect. What with trusts of all sorts and railway combinations the workmen—nay, the people at large—are throttled in a way that will eventually arouse them to political action in order that they may change the laws and the conditions that obtain. Then, and not until then, they will be able to laugh at the sneer uttered by Keir Hardie during the recent elections in England, that "American workmen are a long way behind Europe in the matter of political education; that American capitalists are still able, in a crisis, to smash the labor organizations; that no real labor party exists in the United States, where the workingmen vote on the republican or democratic ticket; and that labor is better organized in Great Britain and far more highly educated in political science, is frankly socialistic, objects to all inter-

national barriers, recognizes no nationality in politics, and directs all its efforts against capitalists wherever they may be found."

While it is thought that the British unionists are not altogether so frankly socialistic as Mr. Hardie says they are (doubtless the wish is father to the thought with that gentleman), there is no doubt that they are determined (1) to secure the eight-hour day by legal enactment; (2) that the trade union law shall be as fair to the workman as it is more that fair to the employer, and (3), that the needs of the workless workman shall be attended to legally. The fact is that the steady-going Englishmen have realized that what was wanted in their politics is a party of men—men who know what the workingman wants and the way to satisfy his needs. They have found that the rich man in the parliament does not represent Lazarus, and that he will do nothing for him except throw him a few industrial and political crumbs. To sum up, the English unions have determined that they shall no longer beg for favors from statesmen who betrayed workmen's trust in them. In the words of Cromwell, when he addressed the parliament of his day, the organized labor of Great Britain has said to its misrepresentatives: "I command you, upon the peril of your lives, to depart immediately out of this place. Go! get ye out; make haste. Ye venal slaves, be gone!"

All this is the result of warfare against the unionism of England, which hitherto has been looked upon here as on the order of the beneficent aid society, when compared with our unionism. Certain it is that England has been staggered at the labor vote, while we are marveling at its result—half a hundred representatives. Well may we marvel, for unionism is not represented at all in congress. Is there a lesson in this for us? With the Parryites and Postites and the National Association of Manufacturers and citizens' alliances grasping the workman by the neck in the effort to throttle him, there is, it seems, a bitter lesson to be learned—and once learned, then remedied. Then there will be fewer attacks on unionism.

TO THE MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL.

Trades unionism aims to afford the workers an opportunity to appreciate a liberal proportion of the desirable things of life; it quickens their intellects by giving them the means, time, and opportunity for mind culture; it gives them something for which to be truly thankful, and its entire programme prepares the way for the enlivenment of spirituality.

It does more. Thousands of children,

emancipated from the grind of the mine, the mill, and the workshop, through its efforts are blessed today, and myriads of childish voices will be raised in loud hosannas in the future proclaiming their redemption from a condition that stunted life and menaced coming generations. The children are one of the special cares of the labor union; their salvation from industrial slavery during their tender years will make it possible for them to become

strong men and women, intellectually, physically, and spiritually. In this the unions are obeying the command of Him who said: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me;" "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me; for of such is the kingdom of Heaven."

The women are another special care of the trades union, and their interests are zealously guarded by the organizations of the workers. For them are demanded all the conditions that will enable them to live "unspotted from the world," so that future generations will rise up and call them blessed.

Our cause is built on the strong, broad foundation of humanity. Our doors are open and our hands always outstretched in welcome to the humblest and oppressed of earth. Our mission is the redemption of the workers from the bondage of industrial slavery, and we welcome the cooperation of all lovers of mankind.

Like all great reform movements, trades unionism has had and has many bitter opponents. It is continually reviled and maligned in the most opprobrious manner. Its representatives are calumniated and often persecuted. All great advanced religious movements have encountered like experiences. The early Christian Church encountered fearful opposition. Its Founder "was despised and rejected of men," and died the death of a common malefactor. His followers were accused of all manner of heinous crimes, and martyrdom was their common inheritance. Other religious societies met similar experiences, as did scientists and other advanced thinkers, whose only crime was a desire to advance the interests of society and mankind in general.

At all times and under all circumstances have many honest but noninquiring minds been deceived by unwarranted attacks and become unwittingly poisoned against a cause built upon the broadest possible foundations of humanity. Trades unionism is accused of tyranny and lawlessness. Its opponents are always active. The public press and every available channel of publicity is used to hurl their defiances and denunciations broadcast against the labor unions and their representatives. Faults of an individual are always the signal for an attack upon the organization, and the officials of the unions are accused of inciting, aiding, and abetting crime. The position of the opponents of organized labor and of those who support and believe in such a policy is not only ridiculous, but unjust. If the same attitude were displayed in other cases, or did the unionists retaliate and use the same policy, a continual cry would go up for the destruction and abolition of banks, churches, and organizations of every description, by reason of

the mistakes, faults, and oftentimes misdeeds of some of their members.

It is really a virtue of theirs that the labor unions do not retaliate, but have been exceedingly long-suffering in this matter, inasmuch as the offenses proven against even their individual members are outnumbered a hundred per cent or more by many business, mercantile, fraternal and even religious organizations. It is not just to judge an organization by the misdeeds of some of its members. Its desirable achievements, its efforts in behalf of worthy objects, and its ideals are better measures of judgment.

The record of trades unionism speaks for itself, and while it has many opponents, it has had and has many defenders, among them a goodly proportion of the great of our land, some of whom have passed away, while others still live, raising their voices and contributing their support in the promulgation of its doctrines. Trades unionism, in seeking to establish the "Brotherhood of Man," is a mighty factor in perpetuating the belief in the Fatherhood of God!"

The Labor Union Not the Labor Question.

It is sometimes forgotten that the labor union is not the labor question. If every labor union in existence was wiped out, the labor question would still be present, and that, too, in a more aggravated form than it is today. It cannot be denied that unionism has brought nearer a solution of the industrial problem. It is easier and more satisfactory to deal with men collectively than to attempt to deal with them as individuals. As a matter of fact, in this day of great corporate interests, individual contracting has practically gone out of practice. Furthermore, if workingmen were to be denied the right to organize and to elect representatives to care for their interests, such denial could only result in a state of individualism which would end in chaos and anarchy. It is the fact that this right still belongs to them that makes our American life so free from so-called anarchistic propaganda, and which accounts for the small response on the part of the American workingmen to such appeals. It seems almost superfluous to add that trades unionism does not indorse the plea for the disruption of our American form of government. Nowhere can be found more loyal citizens than in the ranks of organized labor.

The Right to Protest.

We are not opposed to employers' associations that are organized for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of their members, but we deplore "union-smashing" alliances of any kind that deny the same right to us. We would respectfully suggest that ministers of the Gospel, who are associated with such organizations, are identified with societies to whose membership an adherent of or-

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ganized labor, who believes in strikes, is not eligible, and that in the line-up which is taking place between capital and labor, these ministers seem to be against us. There are times when a strike is justifiable. God help us if the day should ever come when the right to protest is denied the workingman. In so far as these organizations stand for law and order, we are with them, but in their present attitude, which only makes for class distinctions, class privileges, and, as a result, class hatred, we are diametrically opposed to them.

The Employers' "Walking Delegate."

The manager or superintendent of a great corporation who refuses to deal with the elected representatives of the trades union who may not be in the employ of the corporation does not seem to realize that he himself is the elected or appointed representative of a number of stockholders, thus practically becoming the business agent or "walking delegate" of his corporation. Taking human nature as one finds it, it would be only natural for that superintendent to be prejudiced against the workman who, representing his fellow-employees, dared to present a grievance in their behalf. To avoid this unpleasant and almost inevitable discrimination, organized labor prefers to appoint to this difficult task a man who cannot be touched by the corporation because of his aggressive interest in behalf of its employees.

Some General Misconceptions.

Certain misconceptions in regard to the position taken by the trades unions on the question of equal earnings for all workmen, the color line, a "labor trust," and labor-saving machinery, have made it difficult for many ministers to declare for organized labor. For the benefit of such we would respectfully submit the following statements:

Equal Earnings for All Workmen.

The unions do not demand equal earnings for all workmen, thus reducing the skilled workmen to the level of the lowest. They do insist that a minimum or living wage be paid; but there is nothing in the laws of the American Federation of Labor or any of its affiliated unions that prevents an employer from paying any employee as much as he pleases. Nor in connection with this do the unions insist upon the employment of incompetent men. Where agreements exist, the employer can hire any man he pleases in compliance with the terms of the agreement. Where no agreement exists, the union exercises no jurisdiction in the matter, but in either case the employer has every right to discharge the incompetent, shiftless employee.

No Color Line.

The American Federation of Labor does not draw the color line, nor do its affil-

iated national and international unions. A union that does cannot be admitted into affiliation with this body. A portion of the pledge taken by every candidate for membership reads: "I promise never to discriminate against a fellow-worker on account of color, creed or nationality." Colored men are sometimes rejected, but there is no discrimination in such cases, as white men are more often treated in a like manner. Even in the South, where race hatred is so prevalent, the negroes have been admitted into the trades unions, while they have been barred from other organizations that are antagonistic to organized labor. The color barriers have been broken down by labor unions, and not his color, but his character bars the negro when he is rejected.

Labor-Saving Machinery.

Trades unionism does not antagonize labor-saving machinery. It welcomes all such innovations. It does believe, however, that such machinery was intended to be a blessing and in order that it may not become a curse a shorter workday is advocated so that a gigantic proportion of labor shall not be displaced and thus become sufferers instead of recipients of some of the benefits gained by modern invention.

Not a "Labor Trust."

Trades unionism is not a "labor trust." A trust excludes the many for the benefit of the few. Trades unionism opens wide its doors to every workingman in the craft frequently reducing or abrogating the initiation fee in order to make it easier for the candidate. A trust is a close corporation; a trades union diligently seeks new members. Its officers are not high-salaried officials. They are usually underpaid, when one considers the character of the work and the demands which are made upon them. The business agent of a labor union receives as his salary only the rate of wages which prevails in his craft. The international officers, who carry great responsibilities, which demand executive ability of a high order, receive only what is paid an ordinary clerk in the office of a corporation. It will be interesting to note that the term "walking delegate" had its origin in the action of a New York labor union which refused to pay the carfare of its business agent.

The "walking delegate" does not unlimited power in the matter of calling a strike. The men do not blindly follow his dictates. The business agent can order a strike only when the question has been voted upon by the members of the union. He then simply *announces* the strike. Sometimes he is given power to order a strike by the men themselves, in an extraordinary case, but even under such circumstances the action must be indorsed by those directly concerned. It is not his business to "stir up trouble" for

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peaceably inclined workingmen. He is considered the most successful business agent who keeps his men at work. Frequently he winks at open violations of stipulated agreements on the part of the employer, in order to prevent a strike. He is really the "pastor" of his union. He visits the sick, he finds work for the unemployed, he cares for those in distress of any kind.

Character of Labor Leaders.

The officials of organized labor are men of unquestioned character. As in all other organizations, undesirable men will at times succeed in securing an office, but in the great democratic labor movement such men can be easily removed, and are removed. Character, stability, perseverance and unselfishness are essential qualities in the men who retain official positions in a labor union. Many of these officials, business agents, local officials and officials of national and international unions are members and officers in the various churches. Moreover, their efforts as unionists are directed to secure improved temporal conditions for the workers, that will make it possible for them to direct their attention to things ideal, beautiful, spiritual.

Membership of Trades Unions.

It has been and is now asserted that labor unions admit immoral and even vicious men to membership. The charge is malicious. Trades unions have character qualifications, and men are required to be "sober, steady and industrious workmen" before membership can be gained. It would be foolish to assert that the trades unions did not have immoral or even vicious members, but not to a greater extent than other organizations that are supposed to have a higher standard of ethics.

It is unqualifiedly true that trades unions have been and are directing their efforts to bring into their ranks importations from other countries that are not always considered desirable. But it must be admitted that the employers, and not the trades unionists, are responsible for the presence of this class of labor in our country. The employers brought them here. If they are good enough to be brought here and employed for profit by the employers, and the opponents of organized labor, who profess a high order of morality and good citizenship, then it follows as a natural sequence that they must be good enough for us to try and organize them in trades unions, and thus protect themselves, help and receive help for man's social and moral uplift.

It is not fair to condemn the trades union and trades unionist. It is not fair to always judge them by their worst, when all other institutions and their devotees are judged by their best.

The "Closed" Shop.

The principle of the so-called "closed shop" is accepted in everyday business life; why may not an organization of workingmen similarly make a bargain with an organization of employers?

The dealer will agree with the manufacturer to handle only a certain kind of goods. This is considered perfectly legitimate. Why does it seem unconstitutional when precisely the same bargain is entered into between the employer and his employees? The labor union says to the employer: "We will agree to furnish you with competent men at so much per day. We can control the men in our organization. They will abide by the contract that we shall make. We cannot control the men who are outside of our organization, so we ask you to employ only our men, thus making your shop a union shop. If these outside men will agree to make the same contract with you that we have made, we shall be glad to have them come into our organization, thus giving them the same privilege that we enjoy."

The average employer who fights so strenuously for the "God-given right" of the non-union workingman to exercise his privilege of remaining out of the union if he so desires, declaring that his shop must be an "open shop" for free men, will usually debar the man who exercised the same God-given right by becoming a member of the trades union, so that practically his boasted "open shop" policy means a "closed shop" to the unionist.

Why Labor Unions Are Not Incorporated.

But, it may be argued, the trades union is unincorporated, so that an employer cannot hold it to its contract, while he himself is liable to damages. This is not true. It is well known that an incorporated concern can neither sue nor be sued, that both the employer and the trades union are on an equality before the law in this respect. Furthermore, if the trades union was to become incorporated it would be a comparatively easy matter for an unscrupulous employer to hire a spy to commit an act of lawlessness which would involve the destruction of property whereby the entire union would become involved. A successful suit for damages would practically disrupt the organization. If all employers were absolutely honest, the incorporation of the union might be insisted upon; but for the reason given above, organized labor is naturally cautious about taking a step which would bring it practically no advantage, while it would lay itself open to the assaults of its enemies.

The right to run one's business "as he pleases" must have its limitations. Great changes in the conception of personal and property rights have come as part of the democratic evolution. In some respects a man can run his business as he pleases, but in other respects public opinion, and

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frequently public law, steps in and limits his exclusive control. In the matter of employment it is being recognized that there are two parties instead of one. A man may do as he pleases only in so far as that liberty does not injure the well-being of his fellow-man. One may not set fire to his own house, nor may he sell cigarettes or whiskey in some States, because the exercise of that privilege might injure somebody.

Relation of the Labor Union to the Non-Union Man.

The non-union man, by accepting lower wages and longer hours, sets up the standard of living for the entire craft. He may degrade the men who required years of hard work to bring themselves up to their present social and economic level. It is because of this fact that workingmen object so strongly to Chinese and Japanese immigration. But what about the non-union man who demands and receives everything that the unionist asks for? Surely, it may be said, he is not degrading the workingmen. That man be true, for the present. The time may come, however, when the workingmen of his craft may have a grievance which will require a united protest against the unfair treatment of the employer. Outside of the organization, that non-union man may become a menace to our interests, even though he is receiving union wages and working union hours. He may be used against us. Furthermore, he is receiving the benefit of the years of sacrifice and hardship of his fellow-workmen without assuming any of the obligations of the union. He is quite willing to have others fight his battles, without subjecting himself to the perils of the warfare, and frequently his "conscientious scruples" against joining the labor union consist simply of an unwillingness to assume these obligations.

Limitation of output is sometimes urged against the trades union. This is untrue, but practically no attention is given the regular meetings of manufacturers and dealers in which they openly discuss and agree upon prices and the limitation of their product in order to maintain these prices. This applies to practically every great corporation. In some industries the producer will cut off the supply of the dealer if he sells the product cheaper than the price demanded. Meanwhile the same concern will insist on the workingman's right to sell his labor for whatever price he pleases. Every storekeeper despises the merchant who cuts his prices, but he will usually defend the workingman who cuts his.

We are sometimes accused of limiting the number of apprentices in a particular shop. But we have been compelled to

resort to this measure at times because some employers have filled their shops with boys, who were frequently kept at work on a particular machine or on the same kind of special work, which enabled them to earn a man's wages in a year or two, thus not only depriving the full-fledged mechanic of his position, but; at the end of his apprenticeship, the young man found himself a "specialist," unable to pursue his craft as a journeyman, and therefore replaced by another boy, who would pass through the same experience.

In the matter of piecework, when the employers found that by hard spurts their employes could earn a little more than was customary, it frequently happened that a reduction was ordered in the piecework price, so that soon this system in many trades became "the pace that kills."

In practically every instance where the rules of the labor union seem unjust or tyrannical we have been compelled, in self-defense, to establish such laws as would guarantee us some protection against further encroachment by unscrupulous employers.

The extra five minutes at the end of the day in order to "finish a job" became a regular thing, and soon it lengthened into a quarter of an hour or longer, while frequently a protest brought only abuse. Hence, the apparently arbitrary ruling that under no circumstances must a man work beyond the time limit.

Moral and Ethical Value.

The labor union has an ethical value which is rarely appreciated. Labor halls have become social centers. Frequently helpful lecture courses are given. Social features, uplifting in character, are often supported. The labor press educates the trades unionist in technical matters, presents higher ideals and urges better living.

There is a moral value in the regular meetings of the union. A man soon realizes that he cannot force a particular measure upon his associates. He must possess the facts and present them. Every man has a fair chance to present his views, no matter how unpopular he or they may be. He learns the lesson of subordination to the will of others, which is always a good discipline. He learns the value of brotherhood, of co-operation, of "team-work." He is sometimes called upon to make real sacrifices for the sake of his fellows. It frequently happens when it becomes known that a member of a labor union who has run into debt desires to "skip the town" that his union will withhold his traveling card until his debts are paid.

Very little has been said to the public about the millions of dollars which have

been expended in sick and death benefits by trades unions. Rarely does a trades unionist apply to the charity organization, or any other society, for aid.

Organized labor has done much for the cause of temperance among workingmen. There is probably no purely philanthropic organization which has done more in this direction. In many instances there is a prohibition clause in the contract with the employer. The rules of the union declare that an injured man will not receive the weekly sick benefit if the injury was sustained while he was intoxicated. More and more labor union meetings are being held in halls which are free from saloons. Rarely do they meet on Sunday.

Trades Unionism and the Immigrant.

Trades unionism is doing more to Americanize the immigrant than any other institution, not excepting the church, according to the United States Labor Commissioner in the bimonthly report issued January, 1905. It is teaching him the nature of the American form of government. In the old country the word "government" meant oppression. He soon understands that here it means "friend." In the labor union he gets away from his clannish instinct, which even his religion has not heretofore been able to accomplish.

Organized labor has done much for the abolition of child labor, for the doing away of the sweatshop, unsanitary conditions in the shop and tenement, and the long hours, which left the workingmen no time for mental or moral improvement. We realize that isolated cases may be cited which seem to disprove some of the above statements, but the principles presented are those for which organized labor as a whole stands.

For these reasons we ask for a fair consideration of our cause, and we earnestly seek your cooperation in our desire to improve the condition of the toiling masses, because we believe that in these things we have much in common.

A. F. OF L.

DISCOURSE.

BY FRANCES BACON.

Some in their discourse desire rather commendation of wit, in being able to hold all arguments, than of judgment, in discerning what is true; as if it were a praise to know what might be said, and not what should be thought. Some have certain commonplaces and themes, wherein they are good, and want variety; which kind of poverty is for the most part tedious, and, when it is once perceived,

ridiculous. The honorablest part of talk is to give the occasion; and again to moderate and pass to somewhat else; for then a man leads the dance. It is good in discourse, and speech of conversation, to vary, and intermingle speech of the present occasion with arguments, tales with reasons, asking of questions with telling of opinions, and jest with earnest; for it is a dull thing to tire, and as we say now, to jade anything too far. As for jest, there be certain things which ought to be privileged from it; namely, religion, matters of state, great persons, any man's present business of importance, and any case that deserveth pity; yet there be some that think their wits have been asleep, except they dart out somewhat that is piquant, and to the quick; that is a vein which would be bridled.

And generally, men ought to find the difference between saltiness and bitterness. Certainly he that hath a satirical vein, as he maketh others afraid of his wit, so he had need be afraid of others' memory. He that questioneth much, shall learn much, and content much; but especially if he apply his questions to the skill of the persons whom he asketh; for he shall give them occasion to please themselves in speaking, and himself shall continually gather knowledge: but let his questions not be troublesome, for that is fit for a poser; and let him be sure to leave other men their turn to speak: nay if there be any that would reign and take up all the time, let him find means to take them off, and to bring others on, as musicians used to do with those that dance too long galliards. If you dissemble sometimes your knowledge of that you are thought to know, you shall be thought at another time, to know that you know not. Speech of a man's self ought to be seldom, and well chosen. I knew one was wont to say in scorn, "He must needs be a wise man, he speaks so much of himself," and there is but one case wherein a man may commend himself with good grace and that is in commending virtue in another, especially if it be such a virtue whereunto himself pretendeth. Speech of touch toward others should be sparingly used; for discourse ought to be as a field, without coming home to any man. I knew two noblemen of the west part of England, whereof the one was given to scoff, but kept ever royal cheer in his house; the one would ask of those who had been at the other's table, "Tell truly, was there never a flout or dry blow given? To which the guest would answer, 'Such and such a thing passed.'" The lord would say, "I thought he would mar a good dinner." Discretion of speech is more than eloquence; and to speak agreeably to him with whom we deal, is more than to speak in good words,

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or in good order. A good continued speech without a good speech of interlocution, shows slowness, and a good reply, or second speech, without a good settled speech, showeth shallowness and weakness. As we see in beasts that those that

are weakest in the course, are yet nimblest in the turn as it is betwixt the greyhound and the hare. To use too many circumstances, ere one come to the matter, is wearisome; to use none at all is blunt.

WHY SHOULD NOT WORKINGMEN COMPETE?

BY ARTHUR F. BLOOMER, OF WASHINGTON, D. C., IN TYPOGRAPHICAL JOURNAL.

The assertion has been made that practically all the money in the country passes through the workingmen's and workingwomen's hands at least once a year, in payment for their labor. This they return, with their labor, for the privilege of living—for rents, food, clothing and such of the comforts of life as they get. That every community is dependent upon the wages of the workingman has been shown many times, two recent instances being in the anthracite region of Pennsylvania, where, during the great strike of 1902, every kind of business was abandoned, and at Fall River, Mass., where everything was at a standstill while the textile strike was on. The further assertion has been made that if workingmen were to confine their expenditures of money to the actual necessities of life, every business would soon be paralyzed in any community in which the demonstration might be made.

But not all workingmen spend for their daily living all their earnings. A favorite item of statistics is the statement of the amount of deposits in savings banks, in gross and per capita. In some of the New England states the per capita deposits in savings banks are given as in the neighborhood of \$300, running to as low as \$6 in some of the southern and western states. The impression is always sought to be given that the deposits in savings banks are those of wage-earners, and it may be that this is true. For the purposes of this argument it will be assumed to be true, and it must be true in a large measure, at least.

This means that of what the workingman receives from the moneyed classes for his labor, inadequate proportion of what he earns as it is, which is not required for his daily subsistence he gives over to the same class to exploit with and lend to other workingmen who seek to buy homes, receiving a trifle of two or three per cent for it, and less, because of its not having been deposited the required length of time, while the banks receive the legal interest and seven or eight per cent more by the intricacies so well known to bankers. Inadequately paid for his labor, he is also inadequately paid for the use of his money—the little that he can withhold from the class by

whose grace he lives, and which, incidentally, lives upon him.

It has been said that "money only can make money." But it has also been said that "money can only make money by inadequately remunerating those whom it employs." It is manifest to any one that no one can "amass a competency" by his labor alone; that only by "investing his money" as he accumulates it can a workingman hope to secure a sufficient amount to live as little as ten years without income from his labor, if he should live that long after becoming incapacitated for work; and the age of incapacity has been set at practically the meridian of life by many of the great "captains of industry" whom the newspapers and magazines are seeking to teach us to admire. Why should workingmen, working for too low wages, give the handling of their savings to the capitalists for too small return?

We have combined, with a fair degree of success, for increase of wages and for reduction of hours of employment. Is it not equally feasible to combine for the employment and exploiting of our savings so that we may have all the profit made out of them instead of a small percentage of it? If the vast millions deposited in savings banks are the money of workingmen, who can not we so employ it that, instead of getting the two or three per cent which the banks pay as interest, we may get the ten, twelve or fifteen per cent which the banks get? Moneyed men who have deigned to talk with workingmen, and to whom the subject has been broached, have said: "You can lay brick, and drive nails, and cut stone, and wield a hammer, and watch a lathe, and set type, and paint houses, but you have not got sense enough to do business." Is it true? And, if it is, can we not learn? Who taught the trade to those who do know the business of the country? Were they born business men, "leaping full-armed from the brain" of the business men who have passed in procession before the world? It has been said that the line between keen business methods and criminal rascality is so fine that if it were a blade a mosquito would split his hoofs trying to get a flying start from it; but what of that? Can not we, or a sufficient number of us to manage our affairs, learn

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enough of keen business methods to enable us to compete with those not yet jailed?

The workingman is sometimes patted on the head—good dog that he is—and told that he is the bone and sinew, the backbone of the country; that by working from Monday morning until Saturday night, and spending his wages between that time and the next Saturday night, he is the strength and support of the community; and it is true. But why should he not be some portion of the brain of the community, as well as its brawn? As a mere laborer, receiving but sufficient for his toil to enable him to work and to raise another generation of toilers, he does not differ much from the former African slave, except that the burden of his support when sick or disabled by age does not fall on his master.

It is urged, and it is demonstrated every day, that the workingman has boundless opportunities to rise, to get into business himself and become an employer of labor instead of an employee. But that means only the few. There are not opportunities for many, if many developed the masterful and acquisitive quality which enables men to control other men and take the reward of their labor. There must always be the under stratum for whom there is not room above, if they had necessary ability.

There have been many attempts at co-operative enterprises by workingmen, and some of them have been successful; but, alas, too many have been failures. Co-operative investments have usually been made with one of two objects in view—to supply the investors with certain necessities of life at reduced prices, or to furnish themselves with employment. Instances of the latter abound in the country, especially among printers, there being in existence today no inconsiderable number of newspapers that were established by printers to obtain employment; but their greater success has nearly always been attained after passing into other hands, partly because theirs was the unremunerative period of the newspapers' existence, and partly because a newspaper is the hardest business known to man to bring to a paying basis. The co-operative store often dies because the business men with whom it comes in competition make it their errand to see that it does die, succeeding by operating through wholesale men and by weakening its credit, creating dissensions among the stockholders, and the other methods known to business men. Want of cohesiveness has ever been one of the greatest weaknesses among workingmen, and that it does not break up the solidity of unions is due to education in the principles of unionism and the stigma attaching to the "scab"—at that, schisms and

secessions sometimes occur. This is an element largely "banked on" by the capitalistic class.

A little real capital and a large amount of "water" is sufficient to put a corporation engineered by experienced capitalists on a paying basis. Of the capital of \$100,000, say, 10 per cent is paid in and bonds are issued for \$100,000, with which the business is conducted, in the case of a monopolistic corporation the profits being made large enough to pay the interest on the bonds and provide a sinking fund for the payment of the face of the bonds themselves at maturity. Then the corporation owns a hundred-thousand-dollar business that has cost it \$10,000 and that is earning 5 per cent on \$500,000, or 25 per cent on the original stock of \$100,000, or 250 per cent on what it actually cost the original stockholders, \$10,000, and it proceeds to issue to its stockholders \$400,000 of "preferred stock," on which the 5 per cent is paid, and most likely \$500,000 of "common" to sell to the general public, the proceeds of which find their way to the pockets of the original stockholders and a million-dollar corporation does business. Great railroad, street railway, gas, electric, telephone, telegraph, water supply, and many other corporations were established just in this way, and the courts stand ready to decide that any reduction of rates by legislation is confiscation, and so protect them. But this kind of financiering is only permissible to the capitalistic class.

But may not workingmen combine their little savings of a dollar or so a week, by getting large numbers interested—five hundred or a thousand in a corporation—and by engaging in honest business, without any "kite flying," without any "frenzied finance," receive the earnings of their own money? It is not supposed or suggested that by such means they would be able to retire from labor, but merely that their incomes would be added to, and that by the time age had seized them in its inevitable grasp they might spend the last few years in comparative comfort. Five hundred at a dollar a week—a sum that no mechanic, practically is too poor to invest—would give a capital of over \$25,000 a year, and what business, with an income of \$500 a week from its stockholders, could not be established on a remunerative basis in a short time? After an enterprise has been fully financed and is "on its feet," turn the weekly dollar into another channel until the process is repeated, and again and again, until the five hundred stockholders are in possession of a fair portion of the business of the city of its location.

It looks rosy, do you say?—but what business could we invest in? Anything that anybody else invests in. Real estate is a rock-founded business in any city

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which has working men and women in it; and what city has not? Houses can be built and sold, bought and sold at a profit, or rented at a fair income. For less than \$10,000 a laundry can be established that will earn three or four hundred dollars a month. For less money restaurants and saloons—don't be frightened, for the chances are that the pillars of your church, if real estate owners, derive a large portion of their rents from saloon and bawdy-house property—may be put on paying basis. For a few thousands, perhaps, land can be purchased on which to establish a thriving suburb, and for some more thousands an electric road can be built out to it. Foundries, machine shops, planing mills, lumber yards, brick-making works—anything may be established with money. The last thing to be suggested, however, is a newspaper.

But to do these things we have got to stop our woman-like bickerings. Officials in whom we have confidence must be elected and left unhampered to conduct the business. Financial officers must be so selected and bonded as to make dishonesty on their part of no greater probability or easier of accomplishment than in other business life. The mechanic who is "too strong" to work at his trade and has not sufficient acumen to get into any other business, who gets a living we know not how or why, but in no event by doing any honest work, in selecting officers should be shunned as carefully and effectually as though he had a known criminal record. Results must not be anticipated too soon, and losses must be stood philosophically, with the feeling, "If I lose all I put into it I will be no worse off than if I had not gone into it." Prosperity, if it should come, must not be permitted to intoxicate. Exercising the utmost watchfulness through the proper officers, mistrust must be kept in

the background. That we are merely workingmen must be lost sight of, and only that we are investors remembered.

Remembering the good old country adage, "Never set a hen until she is ready," business should not be attempted until sufficient capital is paid in to make an early failure an impossibility. Neglect of this has caused a number of co-operative failures—by rushing into business and incurring obligations impossible to be met at the enterprise's inception. The idea of a business for the purpose of supplying the stockholders' own necessities should not be indulged in, for the person interest of each will not be found sufficient to assure his loyalty; besides, men have business friends whom they do not care to desert. Sentiment should be thrown to the winds and cold-blooded business methods made the rule.

Workingmen successfully conduct sick-relief and death-benefit associations; occasionally a money-lending organization is formed and thrives; credit associations which assume obligations and make collections, are becoming popular; their union treasuries are usually as well managed as those of other organizations. At Oakland, Calif., co-operative meat markets are proving an astounding success, established by locked-out members of the butchers' union. Then why can they not combine small savings into a vast capital with which to compete in any branch of business? Must they ever work merely for the privilege of living? If they save money, must others reap its earnings forever? Can we only lay brick, drive nails, cut stone, wield hammers, watch a lathe, set type and paint houses? Can we not at least try to demonstrate our ability to save some of our wages and exploit it in the business world? Are we capable of being only hewers of wood and drawers of water?

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CORRESPONDENCE

A few words as to the doings of District Council, No. 3, Fifth District.

Everything is going along smoothly in the Locals which have complied with the Constitution of the I. B. E. W. and become affiliated. They are showing a good spirit of unionism by paying their extra dues to the council and thereby helping to defray the expenses of organizing the unorganized and in so doing helping to strengthen our brotherhood.

As to the Locals which have not become affiliated, some through a matter of indifference and others through pure selfishness. They will soon find that they will not have a charter and then possibly will wonder why. But a word to the wise is sufficient. Study the Constitution.

An organizer was put to work May 21st, and reported twenty applications secured the first week, and is now engaged in organizing a Local in Michigan City, Ind.

It has been decided by the executive board to have the organizer work in cities where there is no Local or where there has been one and it has gone under, for this reason we trust that all Locals will try and do all the work in their jurisdiction that is possible with out calling on the organizer at present, as the work to be done among the unorganized is more than one man can accomplish in the next year.

The organizer will visit any Local in the territory that he may be working in, on regular meeting nights.

If the rank and file of the brotherhood and especially the Local officers would study their Constitution it would be but a short time until every member would be working to make this the best organized district in the brotherhood. Come, get busy, and learn your duty to your family, yourselves and to the obligation you took when becoming a member.

With best wishes for the success of our cause, I will close.

F. R. McDONALD.

Aurora, Ill., June 1, 1906.

Peter W. Collins, Grand Secretary,
Pierik Building,
Springfield, Illinois.

Dear Sir and Brother:

I wish to compliment you on your work as the editor of our official journal. Next to the letters from sister locals, I like to see nothing so well as good sound

labor talk such as you inserted in the April number. Each and every article is a jewel by itself, and should be read and reread by every brotherhood member and should be remembered. The trouble with us today is that we do not spend enough time reading and studying the labor question.

Continue in your good work, Bro. Collins, give us some more matter worthy of time and thought.

Wishing you all success, I remain,

Yours for the cause,

T. L., Card No. 95,015.

Varysburg, N. Y.

St. Louis, April 29, 1906.

Sunday, the sun shining, the birds singing, the little folk getting ready for church, in fact nature displaying all the beauties that should make good feeling among men, but does not. Such things should soften the heart of any person, but the "shark" even now is planning to degrade his fellow man, studying how he can increase his gains, make all for himself regardless how much he depresses the unfortunate wage earner. But such is human nature. I see the wealthy going to Divine worship (?) in their dashing conveyances, regardless of the poor unfortunate trudging their weary way to plead for a better future. If perchance the poorly dressed, but honest workman should happen to enter one of the finely furnished edifices set apart for the rich to worship the Divine Ruler, he would be frowned at and even insulted at times. Remember brothers, if you have been honest and performed your duty, all the wealth in the world will not give you the same satisfied feeling. Men are not considerate enough even in business. I have seen a man refuse a fellow man food, and just after the poor unfortunate had left, take vituals fit for any person and give to a dog, who nosed in and selected what he liked best and left the rest. I was forced to express my thoughts and made an enemy. Such men I would rather have as enemies than friends. Brothers I know if you will take time to imagine yourself in the others place you will practice more charity; even though the individual shows no appreciation your conscience will not smite you. Some may laugh at you for being soft; let them do as they please, your reward will come. Stand together, overcome petty jealousy. If you are more prosperous than

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are others, don't look down on him, but put forth a hand and give him a lift. Some may say I am pathetic; I am to a certain extent, but I sleep well, have a good appetite, can look any man in the face, and fear no ill from my wilful neglect of what I think my duty.

The ladies are not forgotten, for they can make men of some, that without their good influence would be indifferent.

Keep your own conscience clear, have nothing to conceal, give a good days work for a good days pay, and stick to the I. B. E. W. and you will prosper.

St. Louis may be pretty busy this fall, but there are enough brothers here just now to take care of the work.

With best wishes for all brothers and with pride I sign myself a brotherman.

BALDY.

Lexington, Ky., April 30, 1906.

Local Union No. 1.

As some of the brothers think Baldy has not been noisy enough of late, I must say that No. 1 has "kept" me pretty busy.

With all the Local troubles, and others to the brotherhood throughout the country, I have been on the anxious bench.

San Francisco trying to outdo Chicago, Baltimore and St. Louis in the calamity line, the brothers of the south and north just waking up, that is, beginning to see the injustice done them and endeavoring to make life worth living all have a tendency to tax the mind of those with a hearty feeling for suffering humanity, to devise some means whereby the suffering may be made more easy to bear and leave no after evil effect.

Charity, a study of the word will show that it is of vast meaning and when properly applied is of lasting good.

A hearty response to any appeal for and in a just cause, has a tendency to cement a brotherly feeling, and thereby strengthen our brotherhood. If the members will look at the small amount required from each to make a fund of great proportions, they will cheerfully come to the front. Waive all ill-feeling, and come out with the necessary, as you would like others to do were the case reversed, that is, your misfortune and not theirs.

The troubles in St. Louis are drawing to a close. All brothers have stood bravely by their representatives thereby removing much of the opprobrious of committee meetings and home study, endeavoring to establish rules to better the conditions of the wage earners and at the same time to display no individuality.

As all are more or less selfish, but can overcome that to a certain extent by the exercise of "charity." St. Louis is improving but as all building has been more or less retarded by the disputes, the electrical work will not begin until later on.

Bro. Patrick J. Coughlin, "The Irish

Jew," has been a very busy man, and as both hands have been kept in good condition, has been heard to good advantage.

The honor of being General President of the International Building Trades Council is great, and No. 1 is proud to know that the same name appears on their roster.

Several letters from Frisco received bring glad tidings. While the case is a very sad one, we are glad to know that the prompt response has engendered more brotherly feeling, and prospects are good for the future.

The progress of the brotherhood does not depend entirely on the officers you have elected, but a united action. Remember you are but one of many, but have a perfect right to voice your views, and use every honorable means to convince your brothers that your views are best, but just because a majority do not think as you, is no reason they are your enemies, and don't try to discourage a trial of the rule, but await your chance and then go at bers will be conducive of good.

The Locals, Nos. 1, 2, 59 and 462 are housed in one hall, and all feel that a better attendance and mingling of members will be conducive of good.

District Council No. 5 of the 5th District are doing work now in the proper manner. All officers are ardent and willing workers, even Bro. W. W. Wade, 1st Vice President, can stand to live and work in East St. Louis. If he don't do much work the noise he makes will cause the rest of the country to think he is doing well. Bro. Harry Meyers, President of the Council, is doing nobly. Always ready at the call for assistance, and if tenacity and a clear head will accomplish anything, look out for good results.

All officers of this district seem to have a friendly rivalry and the one object is the success of the brotherhood.

Wishing all health, wealth and prosperity, I am,

Yours fraternally,

BALDY.

St. Louis, Mo.

Local Union No. 29.

Now for a line from Trenton, for I know it has been a long time since you have heard from us. At present work is fairly good around here and vicinity.

The Light Company also is doing a lot of work. We have also reduced our initiation fee and have got in several new members and some of the back members.

At present the Local is flourishing and pretty good lot of fellows in Trenton.

Well, brothers, being my first attempt as press secretary, I'll close and try to do better next time.

With best wishes to you.

Fraternally yours,

L. J. LOLLER.

Trenton, N. J., June 1, 1906.

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Local Union No. 31.

Local Union No. 31 is at it yet, good and strong. Here's a proposition that we want a solution of: The city council proposes to pass an ordinance compelling the placing of all telephone and electric light wires on the same pole lines throughout the city, where same are not underground.

We want to know what protection can be given the telephone men.

We have the opportunity to get any thing in the ordinance along that line in reason, regardless of cost to the company and want to have suggestions from those who have experience all along this line.

Please write soon and fully if you have been there. Trade is pretty good and all settled. We are on the old warpath against the Bell and intend to stay right through.

With best wishes to all.

Yours fraternally,

R. S. HARTLEY,

Duluth, Minn., May 23, 1906.

Local Union No. 31.

Local No. 31 is also involved in difficulty with the Bell. Not that any of our men are on strike there, for we have been unable to get a man in there for two years. But we are going to make a big effort to make them sign a closed shop agreement. The other trades in the city are working in hearty sympathy with us in this matter and we expect to see a big demand for Independent phones where now the Bell has a hold.

So far we have taken the matter up principally with organized labor, and if we can get two-thirds of the laboring men to throw out the old phone, we think Mr. Bell will sit up and commence to take notice.

They are antagonistic to the city also, relative to the placing of poles, and underground work and we hope we have a good opportunity there for a rap.

We consider that the fight being waged in the Twin City locals against the two telephone companies means practically a fight for existence of all Locals in the northwest and heartily send our approval of using all district council funds available in settling the matter.

If the boys lose with the Bell there we will have a much smaller show of compelling them to deal with us than as if the boys beat them to a turn and believe that all Locals in this district council should vote to advance needed money.

Work is good here now and prospects are favorable for the year, but before starting be sure you bet the "Green goods," that very essential.

Yours fraternally,

R. S. HARTLEY.

Duluth, Minn., June 1, 1906.

Local Union No. 36.

For your information Local Union No. 36 has changed its meeting night from Friday to Tuesday and its meeting place from Pythian Castle hall to Federated Trades hall, K. street between 10th and 11th streets, Sacramento.

As our membership is widely scattered an insertion in WORKER to the above effect would be beneficial to our Local providing the same is not out of the ordinary.

Fraternally yours,

J. NOONAN.

Sacramento, Calif., April 1, 1906.

Local Union No. 43.

It is with pleasure that I am able to announce that we got our new agreement signed up May 1st, with practically no trouble, and this I consider very fine inasmuch as it called for an increase of wages 50 cents per day. If there is a Local in this part of the country that can show up any better agreement than No. 43 it has yet to show itself. Our scale is \$3.50 for eight hours with the usual extra for overtime and holidays. So far as work is concerned it is not very good. Our White City job is practically finished and about a dozen of the boys are walking the streets and that cuts quite a figure for a city the size of Syracuse. It is very seldom there is very much demand for men here nowadays but any floater happening our way will be welcomed, providing the carries a paid up card, and take the same chances for a job as the rest of us.

We have just had four brothers here from Providence, R. I., and if all floaters were as square and reasonable as these boys were No. 43 would never have had the trouble that it has experienced in the past. These boys came here to help us on our White City job. If No. 99 is composed of such boys as these they certainly ought to win their strike and in its struggle it has the best wishes of No. 43.

Wlel, I think I have written plenty for this time, I remain,

Fraternally yours,

SCRIBE.

Syracuse, N. Y., June 1, 1906.

Local Union No. 54.

Having been appointed Press Secretary, I will try and let some of the brothers know how things are going around Columbus. Work is not so very brisk around here though all of our brothers are working and have been working hard for their local as we have taken in about thirty new members and have several up for investigation.

On May 17th, we held an open meeting which was well attended and every one seemed to enjoy it. Two of our brothers had the misfortune to get injured the

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other day in which a street car collided with one of the Telephone Company's wagons; the boys were knocked from the wagon and were bruised up pretty bad and it will be some time before they are receiving the best of care and are improving rapidly.

Well, as this is about all the news from No. 54, I will close. Wishing all brothers good and success to the I. B. E. W.

C. JOHNSON,
Press Secretary.

Columbus, O., May 24, 1906.

Local Union No. 57.

Indeed strange things can and do happen. A letter from Local Union No. 57, for instance, appearing in the Official Journal of the I. B. E. W. It being a number of months since a letter from said Local has appeared, I deem it a wise idea to enlighten the various Locals that such a Local as No. 57, Salt Lake City, still exists. Yes, still existing and prospering. Work in this vicinity is fairly good at present. Our Local is enjoying and meeting with success as usual, many new brothers taken in each month. All members of the I. B. E. W. should take the advice and follow in the footsteps of Local No. 57. Not only in increasing your membership, but in keeping your due books stamped up to date. Boys you can't tell what will happen, or when.

During the month of May, three of our worthy brothers met with accidents, which have caused weeks of suffering—Bros. Rhoades, Bump and Foster. We hope to see them all out again soon. These brothers, like yourselves, started out for their work in the morning without a thought of danger impending, yet ere nightfall were victims of the unforeseen. Think brothers! What benefits would they have derived from their Local had their due books not borne a little yellow stamp, indicating their up to date standing with their Local? None; none whatever. It would seem hard for a brother lying helpless, not to receive aid when needed, but each and every brother knows what is expected and what he must do to obtain assistance at such a time, and all have the same opportunity of averting it and placing himself in such a position. So look to your due books brothers, for who knows but what your turn may come next.

Keep posted. Attend your meetings so you will know what is being done. Have a voice in matters yourself—don't leave everything for two or three. Your opinions may be worth more than you think. Have a brotherly love for all brothers and show outsiders the good you can do. Gain their respect and see if your Local don't prosper thereby. If you want to be union men, be union men, true to your

union in every sense. Remember your obligation to your union. If you can't be that kind you have no right to wear the emblem of the I. B. E. W. Read letters from No. 1.—(Baldy.) They will do you good. He tells you things worth reading and gives you advice worth following. Keep them coming Baldy.

With success to all brothers, in behalf of Local No. 57, I am,

Fraternally,

JOHN M. YOUNG.

Salt Lake City, June 4, 1906.

✓ No doubt some of the brothers will be surprised to see a letter in the WORKER from No. 73, but as it is high time we let the brotherhood know we are alive and still kicking, your humble servant will endeavor to let the brothers know just what is doing in this neck of the woods.

To begin with, I am sorry to say we have another strike on our hands, but this time with the Washington Water Power Co., a firm who considers it highly proper that they organize and corner the local market on their products, but who do not consider that the man who holds his life in his hands has a right to say as to what he considers the risk he takes worth or even to join an organization whose main object is to better the conditions of all its members and to make life worth living for them.

The company refuses to treat with its members as union men but will treat with them as individuals which we absolutely refuse to consider.

On previous occasions the manager of the company has said to the employes, now if at any time you have a grievance, come right to me, that is about all they could get out of him anyway as he made the laws for the men to work under and if the boys didn't like it, why of course they could quit. The company would never make a written agreement as to wages or hours, but did make an oral agreement with a committee of its employes which it attempted to break without a moments notice, and which is directly the cause of the strike.

They have two of our largest newspapers subsidized and every day they print some of the company's side, and when they can't get news from us, why they make news(?) and you all know what kind of news they make.

They are also maintaining a large crew of special police who are putting great reliance on the guns they are allowed to carry by virtue of their having been sworn in as guardians of the peace?

They are put guarding the scabs purposely to get the public down on the strikers; at first the company attempted to get uniformed police to guard their snakes

but we succeeded in having them taken off. About seventy men went out, both linemen and inside men and the company have not got more than three competent men in their whole scab outfit to take their places, and when they go out to do a job of work they send the whole gang and about six guards to take care of them.

And in regards to the guards, I am proud to say that so far as the boys out on strike are concerned they are not needed, but the company wants them there to make trouble and that is the reason they are kept.

The strikers have got into no trouble at all except in one case and that was by a special police making too free use of his gun.

The boys are behaving as all good citizens should in every respect.

We ask that none of the brothers come here as there are plenty here to do the work that is going on, and while we hate to refuse to accept traveling cards we will have to do it for our and the brotherhood's protection.

We had Bro. Worthington, President of the District Council of the Third District here for a few days, and expect G. V. P. Sullivan here before long.

I am sorry that I have to take this means of calling our grand officers attention to the fact that this part of the country has been woefully neglected by them.

It seems the only way we can attract their attention is to get into trouble and then they just come and go.

We have never had an organizer here notwithstanding the promise Grand President McNulty made to me that he would have one here, and all the organizing that has been done has been due to the individual efforts of our members, and I for one would like to see the General Office and our grand officers give us a little more support and recognition than just merely acknowledging the money we send it.

I don't know whether I will be able to write as long a letter as this next time or not, but in case I do, I hope it will have a little more news in it.

Wishing the brotherhood a prosperous future and hoping the brothers will take notice of our trouble and steer clear of Spokane, I will close for this time.

JNO. F. BROWNELL.

Spokane, Wash., June 3, 1906.

Local Union No. 79.

In reading the WORKER for the month of April, I notice a number of letters from different Locals and judging from the remarks which I have heard expressed from members the WORKER as it is now published is giving general satisfaction. I believe that by publishing a few letters

from different Locals each month, the members would have an object in reading it and by so doing they would become better acquainted with our organization.

Now, Bro. Editor as I believe you have started at about the right gait, keep up the good work and that in a short time we can say that the ELECTRICAL WORKER is the Official Journal of a Labor Organization, second to none.

To accomplish this we must get out and hustle; don't depend on some one else to do it; satisfy your mind that you have done your bit and don't worry about the other fellow when you go after a new member, show and explain to him why he should belong to our organization; show him the benefit which he would derive from it and by so doing your chances of landing your man will be good.

Local No. 79 is increasing in membership very fast. We are taking in new members at every meeting and I can safely say that non-union linemen in this vicinity are about as scarce as snow in July. Conditions here are very good, at present everybody working and with prospects of continued prosperity for sometime to come. Bell Company doing lots of work, the Ind. Company rebuilding, wages \$2.75. Remember this is a strictly Card job, so if you come this way without a good ticket stay on the head end and go right through "No ticket, no work."

Not wishing to take up space which other Locals would like to have, I will ring off. With success to the brotherhood, I remain,

Fraternally yours,

L. MERENESS.

Syracuse, N. Y., April 2, 1906.

Local Union No. 92.

Work in this vicinity is rather brisk and the prospects are very bright for a continuation of these conditions throughout the summer.

Both telephone companies are to do considerable work made necessary by moving into there new buildings. In addition to this the Bell are to rebuild the town. If you contemplate floating this way kindly bring a good paid-up card as it will save both yourself and us considerable embarrassment.

Harry T. Kelly has been appointed city foreman for the Bell and I understand the rebuilding is to be done under the supervision of B. R. Phillips.

Local 92 is small but we are all right here to do business. We take in a new member now and then, but not as fast as I would wish.

We are waiting very patiently to hear from the vice-president of this district in regard to the district council which he is to assign us.

Yours fraternally,

HARRY S. BROWN.

Hornellsville, N. Y.

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Local Union No. 99.

As it has been some time since we had a letter in the WORKER and wishing to comply with the instructions of my fellow workers I will try to write a brief account of conditions as I have found them.

Work in the electrical line is not up to the standard owing to the fact that there is no building of any consequence being done, but everybody is looking for an immediate pickup in our trade.

All our boys are working with one or two exceptions and are lending a willing and helping hand for the betterment of trade conditions generally.

At our regular meeting some few nights ago, the proposal of electing a business agent came up and wish to state that not a single objection was registered. The nomination and election followed one another in the regular procedure of business and when the smoke of battle had cleared sufficiently to allow a report of casualties, it was found that "yours truly" had been "shot into the job." I have since been endeavoring to see the boys who have dropped from among us, as well as the boys who have never declared their rights of freedom to do what they please as long as they do not conflict with the laws of our government which are made by an able and sound thinking body of men and enforced by the representatives of the people in uniform.

We are taught to believe that when man was created, he was given a certain sphere to control i.e. himself. Since "yours truly" has been at liberty to see the boys and talk to them on the subject that should be nearest their heart, he has been led to believe that the power of controlling that sphere has been usurped by another to whom it does not belong. Namely the employer.

We Americans have a saying which is "I'd rather be an American than a king," why; because I am free.

I have the right of free speech, free education, the right to embrace my religion and the right to raise my family to do the same. Engage a workingman in conversation, touch on his expectations in life. Ask him if he won't join an organization which has for its object the maintaining of a higher standard of skill, and the betterment of trade conditions generally. Note his answer and then determine whether or not he believes in that old saying, "I'd rather be an American than a king." He is denied free speech. His boss will speak for him. He is allowed free education, provided said education will not prove to him that his power of control has been taken from him. His religion is in no way molested, because his teachings will in no way serve to lead him to believe that his employer is not a god send to him.

The reign of the usurper is a hard one

boys and will ultimately lead to the usurpation of all personal rights which means slavery.

The solution of the problem that confronts us today is easy boys, provided we go about it in the right way. Organize! Organize yourself, organize your family, then go about your day's work and organize those you come in contact with. If you should meet with one who does not see as you do, do not revile him. Explain to him the conditions we are under and if allowed to continue what may be the result. Be courteous, sensible and forgiving. If he says something to which you want to take objections, remember you are a union man and that our "friends?" are only awaiting a chance to cry down union labor.

Don't give it to them. Be a man, and a union man too. Reason with him. Tell him why you joined this organization. Prove to him that the results have far exceeded your expectations. Show him how he is in a position to obtain better results than when you became a member. Explain to him that we are better able to care for his material and intellectual welfare, because we are better organized than ever before and intend to strive to our utmost to attain that state when we can make the assertion and be able to prove that that old saying is right: "I'd rather be an American than a king." Thinking that probably the "blue pencil" will hit this if continued will close for this time wishing all brothers of the I. B. E. W. success, I beg to remain,

Yours fraternally,

JOHN C. MCCOY.

Providence, R. I., May 1.

P. S.:—Local union No. 99 desires to express her heartfelt sympathy and fraternal love to our sufferers in San Francisco.

Local Union No. 100.

A line for our journal as it is always looked for.

We are all clean and dressed up. All reports and instructions are received and attended to promptly. We know our duty and are qualified to do it. We have meetings morning and afternoon and do our business; make our reports and receive our instructions and do them.

All are well, and with the strongest knees ever. Blackberries are now ripening to our satisfaction; also the watermelon crop is coming on nicely. Fish are beginning to bite. We are certainly having a good time too.

We had quite a circus performance free the other day; two little waifs walking along the street each had one climber across his shoulder and finally came to a pole that looked not so large and high. One helped the other to fasten on these aforesaid climbers; after three ships and two hours trial, the 7 feet 8 inches high

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mark was reached, then waif number one's knees began to shake and tremble; the pole was steady. Waif number two says, come down and let me try. Next thing a good hug of the pole, a slip, some torn clothes and skin and it was waif number twos turn. He didn't get so high, but got a skinned nose—then back home.

We have placed some of our men to work and are getting orders for more men every week, and are resting easy on easy street until some future date that the So. Bell officers may see their way clear to do their do with our district headquarters.

With best wishes and prosperity, we are,
Yours, clean,

S. B. KITCHEN.

Jackosnville, Fla., April 29, 1906.

Local Union No. 109.

Now that springtime is here, I would like to see all the brothers wake up, and exert themselves to improve the conditions of our chosen and popular profession. Why do I call it popular? Because electricity is more and more in demand every day. It is taking the place of steam as you must admit.

But the principle and important idea you should keep in your mind is unity, and not unionism, as the latter word does not bring members close enough together. Brothers take this matter to heart and at all times advocate it both in the Lodge-room and out, but above all keep selfishness out of your mind, work for your Locals interest, for you ought to know that when the Local is prospering you do likewise.

Don't knock, for one that is knocked on gets the best job, and the knocker nothing.

Work here in the Three Citys, juts now is a scarce article, but in the very near future there will be work for a large number of the brothers that care to come this way; and, if your Card has the right date on it, you are welcome, if not stay away.

Well, as No. 109 has not been represented in the WORKER for some time, I will stop at this (as I don't want to scare our worthy editor and brothers too badly), but will try to be there hereafter, if this is allowed.

I would like to hear from Nos. 194 and 251 through the WORKER, and all other Locals.

Hoping this is allowed, I wish all brothers and Locals success.

Fraternally,

B. A. (RED) STEPHENS.

Rock Island, Ill., April 29, 1906.

Local Union No. 109.

BRO. EDITOR:

Yes, No. 109 is still alive, but you can hardly tell it with the naked eye.

Work is beginning to pick up, and any brother that cares to come this way, will

probably get a few days. There will be room for quite a number just as soon as the company gets material; that will be in another month.

Brothers, this is the time of the year that counts for the workers and it is up to you to better your Locals conditions. Put away your hammer and get in the gang. Don't you know you will never get anything by that means. The company don't like a "knocker."

Be upright and honest with your employer, and you will get fair treatment.

I would like to see a letter from all the Locals press secretaries.

This is my second attempt; did not get my other letter there in time, so I will be brief with this.

Be sure you are all right when you start here.

Fraternally,

B. A. S., Press Secy.

Rock Island, Ill., May 23, 1906.

Local Union No. 114.

I am again writing a letter for our Journal as it seems to be the wish of our brothers to see something in every month. Work is not very plentiful here, we have two or three brothers out and as this is a central point we are supplied every time with men from Europe, and we have an agreement waiting to be signed, we would ask all to stear clear until it is signed. We have with us Bro. J. Wilson from 165, Bro. C. E. Smith, from 166 or 463, and Bro. H. S. Vickers from 237 or 463. We have for April received 15 applications and initiated 6 new brothers so that if we continue, non-union men will be noticed by their absence. Our electric light company is strictly non-union, if a man joins us he is fired at once, this goes to prove how unreasonable the employers are, these are the men who accuse trades unions of being unreasonable and at the same time take our freedom away. At our last meeting of our building trades council a resolution was passed condemning the government for calling out militia to settle strikes, while I agree with them, it would be better if union men would stear clear of the militia, then the bosses would have to do all the shooting themselves as we all know it is the working-man who joins the militia to shoot his fellow working man. We also ordered a message of sympathy to be forwarded to our brothers in San Francisco. I must congratulate our grand secretary for his prompt action in starting a fund for our brothers, so that I hope every local will help as generously as possible so that our brothers will get help as a right not as charity. Locals 114 and 353 have a committee working planning entertainments to keep up the good feeling with one another. We hope our grand vice-

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president will soon be here to start our district council, 114 have a man to nominate as D. C. who is a charter member and able to speak the two languages and who has been an able officer of 114. I think this is all this time hoping our May WORKER will appear as sharp as April's dia. I will close with best wishes to all locals and our officers. I remain

Yours fraternally,

E. A. DRURY.

Toronto, Can., April 26.

Local Union No. 124.

Well as I have been elected press secretary, I will endeavor to do my best to let the brotherhood know how No. 124 is getting along.

We have only been organized eight months now and have between 50 and 60 members on the books, and taking in from 3 to 6 more each week. Well Kansas City is better organized now than I have ever seen it before.

We have brothers here from the East and West that are certainly pushing the brotherhood along. And now the central body is enforcing the Card system on every job that they light on and make it a clean job and the contractors are beginning to open their eyes.

Well work is picking up now and everybody is working. I thing that in about two months there will be more work than we can get Card men to do. There is three large buildings under construction now.

Well, we requested an increase in wages May 1st, and it was granted to us without any trouble at all and hope that we can do better after while.

Now any brothers coming to Kansas City with the necessary cards on him, I think that we can place them without any trouble.

Fraternally yours,

CARL F. FICKIE.

Kansas City, Mo., May 30, 1906.

Local Union No. 130.

Local No. 130 is again to face the enemy on the firing line. Not as Local No. 130 of the I. B. E. W., but as an integral part of the Local Structural Building Trades Alliance. This central body has declared that "May 1, 1906, we will inaugurate the enforcement of the card system." Well, brothers, we are more than willing to again take up our cross and journey onward toward that Mecca of all true unionists, a strictly closed shop town. But this time we appreciate our resources. There will be no appeal to the Grand Office for support, financial or otherwise. The very existence of a Local proves the fact that the standing order from headquarters to all subordinate bodies is "Maintain your

position." This necessarily implies the support of, and reinforcements from, those who are in duty bound to furnish them.

Many a true and loyal body of men have lost their "Esprit de Corps," and many brave men have become deserters through the feeling, long fought off, that they, while bravely fighting in the trench, were being made a needless sacrifice to the inaction and inertia of their superior officers. At the last convention of the I. B. E. W., held at Louisville, Ky., Sept., 1905, a motion was passed and appears on the minutes, the gist of which is that financial aid be extended to better the conditions affecting Local No. 130, and that an organizer be sent them. We have as yet no knowledge that the intention of that motion is being complied with by "the powers that be." It is with the deepest regret that we face the coming struggle with the stigma attached to us of being the only Local in the movement who are working under the open shop. But when the bugle blows on the morning of May 1, 1906, "The Old Guard" will line up with fervor unabated with their loyalty to the I. B. E. W. as unswerving as their devotion to the cause. To paraphrase the words of the immortal Decatur, "The I. B. E. W., may it always be right, but right or wrong, the I. B. E. W.

The conditions existing in New Orleans today remind me of the little boy whose mother whipped him for taking some jam after she had refused to give him some. Well, he waited patiently until some seven or eight cousins came to visit him when he took part in another raid on the jam, the theory being that she would not attempt to chastise the crowd; and, brothers, we are going to get some of the jam this time.

So, wishing the movement every success as well as the entire brotherhood, I remain,

Yours fraternally,

A. V. CHISHOLM.

New Orleans, La.

Local Union No. 134.

WHEREAS, It has pleased God, in His infinite wisdom to call from the activities of his life our esteemed friend and brother Salve Peterson; be it

Resolved, That we, the I. B. E. W., Local Union No. 134, extend to his wife and family our heartfelt sympathy in their hour of trial; and, be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes and that a copy of same be sent to him family and the ELECTRICAL WORKER.

GEO. M. STRACHAM,

CHAS. BLOOMFIELD,

G. O. JOHNSON,

Committee.

Chicago, Ill., May 25, 1906.

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Local Union No. 137.

On account of brothers being very busy at present I thought we had better have a piece in the WORKER in June in regard to the raffle that we have had for the benefit of Bro. Albert Miner. I cannot get out a full report for June WORKER, but we thank all sister Locals that gave him the aid, and if you will watch July WORKER. I will have a full report and each Local that helped.

I will just say that ticket No. 5600 won the watch and it was bought by Local Union No. 415, Cheyenne, Wyo. I remain,

Fraternally yours,

FRED MINER.

Albany, N. Y., May 30, 1906.

Local Union No. 139.

As I have not seen a letter in the WORKER from No. 139 in a long while, I will plug in to let you know that we are among the living. The Telephone men are working an hour less than in days gone by. This is the way it happened: Our Local appointed a committee to see the Bell and York State Telephone Companies and after the committee and companies came together enough to get acquainted with each others desires we found that we could work nine hours per day instead of ten, so when 1st G. V. P. James J. Reid came to close the new circuit he threw up the switch and shoved the lever over on the starting box and did not blow a fuse but we found that the Bell machine was liable to run hot so we sent our committee over and had a talk with the manager and he explained that he would have to have time to give his men notice, so now the Bell machine is adjusted so she don't seem to spark at all and everything is sunny with the York State circuit as she has carried her load ever since we closed the circuit, so all the telephone hikers and phone setters are working nine hours in this neck of the woods now, and the inside wire men asked for \$2.50 for eight hours and got it without a murmur. Heretofore this has been a nine hour town and any old pay ranging from \$2.00 per day to \$2.50 has been all that the men were getting, but now we have an agreement for \$2.50 minimum which the conduit wrestlers are bringing to the front with great rapidity and those that have not signed are paying just the same. We are taking in new members quite often so our goat don't have a chance to pick up very fast as the brass knuckles on his horns worries him considerably. We have just sent Bro. Packard to Syracuse to attend the first meeting of this district council and are awaiting his report which he will give next Saturday night.

Well, I guess I have given you all the news, so I will close, hoping this don't get grounded in the waste basket, I remain,

Yours fraternally,

B. C. JOHNSON.

Elmira, N. Y., May 29, 1906.

Local Union No. 150.

At our last regular meeting held Tuesday evening, April 24, we held an open meeting and smoker for men working at the business and got several applications. We had music by some of the brothers, also a phonographic entertainment, and voted \$5.00 to locals in afflicted district on Pacific coast.

Fraternally yours,

SAM'L. N. AUGER.

Bay City, Mich., April 27.

Local Union No. 151.

Will you kindly send a directory of addresses to me, as everything we had was destroyed by fire. The city or what used to be the city is an awful sight. It resembles a forest burned to the ground with a few stumps here and there remaining. What is left of Local Union No. 151 have had a lot of work to do; the S. F. G. & Elec. Co., refused to live up to the agreement with the Union and started to pay off at the rate of single time for Sunday work. G. V. P. Sullivan had left for Salt Lake satisfied that he had straightened things out in S. F., but the S. F. G. & Elec. Co. forgot their promise two hours after he left.

A special meeting of the Union was called, and after going over the situation and gathering up evidence obtained through city officials it appeared that the company wanted strike, as no doubt they had a lot of public sympathy with them. We did not force the issue but the company are working men according to agreement beginning the 7th of May and overtime in dispute laid over until Mr. Britton, Gen. Manager, gets home from Japan.

Every Labor Union in S. F. stands solid together, but very few are working. Money is scarce but I think it will be O. K. in a month or so.

The big property owners and corporations have done everything to break up the Unions. They have sent committee after committee to Mayor Schmitz urging him to declare martial law, which he has refused to do. He has threatened to revoke franchises of corporations if they don't maintain promises made before the fire, so there is no more danger of the Unions breaking up in S. F., but will have a hard road to travel for some time as thousands lost everything, even their tools. The members of Local Unions No. 151 and 6 fared bad and think three out

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of every five lost all they had. The heat from the fire drove us out to the edges of the city.

An automobile started at 1st and Brannan street going along the edges of the burned district until it reached starting point, the distance according to register was a little over 26 miles; this will give you a small idea of property destroyed by fire and earthquake. It is estimated at \$400,000,000.

With best wishes, I remain,

P. O. PETERSON.

San Francisco, Calif., May 20, 1906.

Local Union No. 151.

At our last meeting before the dreadful disaster, I was elected Press Secretary and that I have had no chance to ask for space in our Official Organ, I will now ask of you to grant me a few columns so that I may be able to lay plain our conditions in San Francisco at the present time.

Now brothers, it has been quite a while since you have seen a letter from No. 151 in the WORKER, but under the present conditions I will try and let you know that we are still in existence.

Considering the disaster that we have experienced, we are at the "Head of the Class." As a whole the members of No. 151 suffered very little in comparison with other people of the city and so far we only know of one man that was killed in our ranks. Bro. Kirkpatrick who was employed in Station C of the S. F. G. & Elec. Co., was killed by the falling of the walls as he was trying to make his escape.

Now brothers, what I want to impress on your minds the strongest is to pay no attention to the bogus reports you may hear about the amount of work in San Francisco, for they are not true. At present there is no demand for electrical workers in any branch and if there was we have more than enough idle men to supply the demand. So just stay away until we need men, then we will notify you and give you a hearty welcome into our midst. A word to the wise is sufficient.

The destruction of San Francisco on the night of April 17, 1906, the sun never set on a more beautiful and prosperous city than the one by the Golden Gate and its many inhabitants went to their beds expecting to arise happily as they had for years past, but instead of seeing a bright sunshiny morning it was one of dust and smoke for at 5:14:48 a. m., the earth with all its underground powers combined on the beautiful country surrounding and including San Francisco and gave us one of the most terrible shakes that has ever been known and one that those who experienced it will never forget their first thoughts and in 28 seconds it had ruined what it has taken mechanics over fifty years to build up. Masses of stone were rocked too and fro and then were toppled

into the streets below; steel structures were twisted and bent into unrecognizable shape and frame houses were thrown to and fro and almost as sudden as the trembler came, it went away and then a sight to behold—never in my life did I realize the excitement that prevailed amongst the American people when so serious a situation was facing them as this one was. In my younger days I have seen herds of cattle become excited, stampede and run away, but it was nothing to compare with this. Sane people by the score were thrown into temporary insanity and rushed from their homes and places of lodging into the streets with nothing but their night clothes on and would not dare to go back in to save their earthly belongings but lingered until the fire eat its way into their homes and destroyed all, for no sooner had the trembler quelled than the fire broke out in a score or more places and the worst of all the trembler broke the water mains that fed the fire ridden district and the mighty fire department of San Francisco was powerless to combat with the conflagration that confronted them and it was only a few short hours from the time the fire broke out that the entire district south of Market street from 22d and Howard to Guenero. Clean to the ferry building was one mass of smoke and flames. Then from 15th and Howard it made almost a clean sweep to the Southern Pacific tracks. The fire did not gain much headway on the north of Market until Wednesday night, then it was a continuous flame until Saturday afternoon it was checked on the west at the wide boulevard of Van Ness avenue, on the north it burned almost to North Beach. The fine mansion of John D. Spreckles on Van Ness avenue was rendered a total wreck, but long before the fire had gained its greatest height the most difficult task of all was facing us, it was the hunger of the many thousand people that had been rendered homeless by the fire. South of Market street as the officials in charge of the city would not allow no fires to be built in the stoves owing to the defective conditions of the chimneys after the earthquake and the most ridiculous of all was the merchants who had been so fortunate as to not have the fire reach them wanted four prices for their provisions; those men were dealt with by the Government—the mighty Uncle Sam; their stores were confiscated and where they objected they were shot down like dogs. Nothing too good for a person who wishes to take advantage of his fellow man when conditions like those were confronting us, but it was not long until the outside world knew of our conditions and they responded nobly. May God reward them for the good work they have done, for in years to come San Francisco will resume her place among cities of the nation and likewise she will be able

to respond to a similar call for aid in case some of our sister cities should meet with the same misfortune, but let us trust no other city on this bright universe will meet with such a catastrophe as we have experienced in San Francisco, for not alone has this crippled San Francisco, but it has partially crippled the entire state, though great as she was. She will rise from ashes and ruins and be a more beautiful and grander city than ever.

Now, I will have to limit this for it may be that I will take up too much space but in conclusion I wish to thank in behalf of the members of Local Union No. 151 the Locals that have contributed so liberally for so serious a case as this one was and especially our sister Local across the bump, namely, Local Union ???, of Ogden, Utah. With only a small handful of members for before the smoke had cleared away they came forward with \$174.00, which was most thankfully received; they did not wait for a call for aid but came forward like good staunch Union men with the brotherhood at heart we trust that we will never see Ogden in the same circumstances as we are in but in case we should you can certainly rely upon No. 151 for we will not forget the favor and also special credit should be given to Arthur Gordon McArdle for the heroic part he has played in saving our elaborate banner. Although he only has one hand left he nursed it as if it was a child.

Wishing the brotherhood the best of success in the future, I remain,

Fraternally your most humble servant,

E. S. HURLEY, Press Secy.

San Francisco, Calif., May 22, 1906.

Local Union No. 155.

Local Union No. 155 will let themselves be known again. The brotherhood is enjoying good health at this writing and all the brothers at work, and a few are working who are not brothers; also a few who have taken obligations and dropped out in the days that have gone by. Their existence must be a horrible one especially when they come in contact with a bunch of card men. I can say with pleasure what card men are here is a credit to any city. The soberest bunch of fellows I ever saw gathered together anywhere. Some of you brothers may think I am going a little strong, but nevertheless it is the truth. Any traveling brother coming this way with paid up card is always welcomed by Local No. 155.

Wishing the brotherhood a success in general, I remain,

Yours fraternally,

WM. NELSON.

Oklahoma City, Okla., May 22, 1906.

Local Union No. 156.

Things seem to be moving along ok. There is a great demand for linemen in this section at present, providing they have nothing but "union-made rags" on their person—like "Baldy" of No. 1.

I think you should all give more of your attention to "the ladies" and the "union label."

I am glad to report that I lack several months yet, being ready for burial.

I wish more of the brethren would "practice what they preach" and desert that "trance" of inertness into which so many have seemingly fallen.

I'm sick now, and have a date with my "grocery man" tomorrow; so you will please excuse me for short letter.

Remember your obligation.

Fraternally yours,

"OLD CRIP."

Denton, Tex., April 25.

Local Union No. 163.

I have been reading this month's WORKER and I find more good advice on the trade union movement than I ever got before. Brothers, if you have not read the May WORKER, read it through, it will do you good. We are still fighting our friend the Wilkesbarre Light Co. and from the point the boys stand on we will still be fighting until we are old men, unless Mr. Perkins gives in. We stand with our banners flying with every soldier in line but one, since last September. They have tried with their sharp shooters to pick us off but they only got one, and today he is a dead number, despised by all, respected by none of his former friends, so we feel we have held the fort so long and we haven't been burnt out or starved out we as bread winners must and will win out. I want to state that I believe God's hand has lead us so far to victory and He has put it into the hearts of our loyal members to go down in their pockets and donate part of their earnings to carry on this fight which the officers are very careful to keep a strict account of.

The I. B. E. W. can quote with pride the cities of Scranton and Wilkesbarre as doing our little mite for our organization; of course brothers, we make mistakes which are teachers of facts for the future.

The following I had for the May WORKER, it got misplaced, so if Bro. Collins thinks it alright I hope he will put it all in:

This is going to be, I hope, interesting to not only the members of Local No. 163, but to every union and non-union man who may see this article. I am going to try to explain the general labor movement here in Wilkesbarre, Pa.; the Parreyites, Citizens Alliance, and the tax dodgers association of the city of Wilkesbarre who are far seeing, thought it would be a good chance to break up the

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Building Trades Council of Wilkesbarre, and vicinity and other trades unions so they got those interested who are heart and soul in the Central of Wilkesbarre which we, as citizens of Wilkesbarre, are sorry that the Central is run under such a banner of un-American, unmanly principles as those who have charge of this affair expect us to bend our head in submission and repeat after them ("we are beaten unto the earth from which we have no salvation from our present yoke of bondage, so let us submit to the inevitable; Amen.")

No, a thousand times, no. Before we will submit ourselves to such weakness we will have to be slain like the lion, not like the lamb. We must show our manhood first here in Wilkesbarre, and such is the position now being taken by the trades unions here in the Wyoming and Lackawanna Valleys.

I hope I am not misunderstood and you think the trade union movement is against the grand principle of patriotism by holding ourselves aloof from this demonstration such is not the case, it is simply that we have potatoes to hoe, which is patriotism to our homes and families by providing the necessities of life instead of allowing ourselves to assist those who would cut us down on starvation wages. I will try to give you a description of our city. We have a grave yard to commemorate the death of the open shop around the square and out West Market street is a line of pillars from which strings of electric lights are hung.

I just came home from Scranton and I was awed by the uncanny effect it produced upon me. We held a special meeting tonight to accept a resolution and letter presented by our grand little business agent, A. F. Lynch, who has had a hard battle with the whole show. I won't try to tell all of the trouble necessary to get to the point in running for. Follow me close in what I am now going to say:

Monday, April 22, 1906. Mr. Kennell, superintendent and Mr. Bierhiem called upon our business agent and asked for four linemen and six ground men. They represented the Elblight electric company of New York City; our business agent asked them if they were fair with No. 3 and they said yes; our business agent telegraphed to Bro. Hogan of No. 3 and asked if Elblight was fair and received an answer that they were not, so after our ball and electrical display, Bro. Lynch thought of the yoke he had to put around the whole affair so got busy, he with his little hammer; we got our resolution accepted in eight labor organizations putting the electrical display on the unfair list as the Elblight people were unfair with No. 3 and the Local Light Co. were unfair with us, we kept quite a number out of the parade. I am told by a good authority that the Centennial was a grand fail-

ure because the labor organizations were slapped in the face and resented it. I wish I could say more on this subject, but I am afraid I'll be cut off so I will close. Hoping the brothers will more honestly and conscientiously study the trade union movement. With best regards to our traveling brothers and the organization, I'll feed.

Yours fraternally,
W. F. BARBER, Press Secy.

Local Union No. 163.

Boys, excuse this, it isn't my fault, short of time, so here is just a small bunch of what is sure to come next time.

The Elblight Electric Co. of New York, who has Bernhiem, who took a card out of No. 3 and deposited same at Washington, D. C., and hired out to Elblight Co., who are doing the electrical wiring here for the coming Centennial—which we have put on the bum. Our business agent, A. T. Lynch, whose work will get its due in my next. Nos. 81 and 163 are going to have a joint business agent, if Nos. 81 and 163 say so, and I think they will.

I'll stop; look out for our next.

W. F. BARBER.

Local Union No. 179.

Well, brothers, we are still doing business in Charleston. We had four brothers that quit work with the Bell Co. and one fellow that I guess several of the brothers through the District know his name is J. R. Ward; he was one time president of our Local and when this scale of wages came up, he was the first one to make a fight to get it and he quit the Bell Co. and went on the police force and the Bell Co. gave him a little more and he went back to work for them and he would not come in the Local. So when the strike was called he would not come out but tried to get me to work for the Bell Co., so there is only two working for the Bell, that is J. R. Ward and Frank Jackson and we will make it hard for them.

The motormen and conductors are organized now and in good trim. Everytime they see those men they hollow scab at them, so we have got them feeling "rocky." I don't think it will be long before the boys will be back at work. All we have to do is for the boys throughout the District to do their duty and everything will come out O. K. for the Telephone service here is worse than it has been in years, and if they don't do something soon the people here will commence discontinuing their subscription for telephones for I heard lots of people say they are going to have their phone taken out. So brothers stick together, and you will win.

Well brothers, if old Charleston keeps on with organizing labor she will be a

good strong union town in the next twelve months to come, for she has improved in the last two years more than I ever heard of a city on organizing labor. The working class of people here are just seeing where if they don't help their conditions nobody is going to do it for them. Brothers we must all stick together and think of the obligation that we have taken and if we will just think of what we have promised to our brothers why I don't see how a man can scab, and a man that scabs he can't get a drink of water from me. So don't speak to me if you scab.

With best wishes to all Locals.

Yours fraternally,

J. B. WYLD.

Charleston, S. C., May 1, 1906.

Local Union No. 183.

As No. 183 has not had a letter in the WORKER for some time, I will endeavor to write a few lines. Work is fairly good and all members are working. We have one sick brother, and one crippled, to look after. Bro. Frank Sweeney while stringing high tension came in contact with the trolley and was thrown to the street and got badly hurt; he is able to be out on crutches now. No. 183 has lots of organizing to do before it can be prosperous as the majority is on the outside. It seems like we can't get them together, we get a number of promises but no applications. The East Tennessee Telephone Company's (Burrhead) trouble shooter got killed, and they have employed a white man in his place. Well, about all the good we are doing here is to initiate a brother every now and they give him a card and send him on his way. We initiated eleven from Lawrenceburg while Bro. (Brocky) Brooks was pushing the gang there. If we had a few more brothers like (Brocky) our membership would be much larger.

Yours fraternally,

C. M. MYNHEIR.

Local Union No. 212.

As No. 212 has been among the missing for some time, I would like to let the world hear from us. The boys have got together and formed a baseball league, called the Union Base Ball team, which consists of six members of No. 101 and six of No. 212. The brothers are as follows:

No. 101—W. Coffee, J. McGeehan, Nonehan, Greiner, Garity, Dutchman.

No. 212—C. Fleming, Jack Raymond, Jack Birglar, Bob Lively, Carl Voelmecke, J. Doety.

This is a good team and I think they will make a hit.

Brothers, I would like to state that there is a strike on and you will find it rough sailing if you slow in now.

Well, I guess I will cut off and I will be able to tell you more about the team in the next WORKER.

With the best wishes to the entire brotherhood, I remain,

Fraternally yours,

J. H. ALEXANDER, Press Secy.

Cincinnati, O., April 30, 1905.

Local Union No. 213.

I am sorry that I overlooked writing to the WORKER last month until too late, but hope the following will be in time for publication.

Well, we are still carrying on our strike against the B. C. Telephone Co. and fully expect to win out even if we have been out over three months. From the length of this strike a vast number of brothers would no doubt advocate some sort of settlement and go back, organize the "scabs" and after awhile go after the company again, but this to me would seem foolish as I honestly believe we have the company beaten right now, but the managing directors of the Telephone Co. is also the President of the Employers Association and he realizes that for him to give in would be a double victory for unionism and would undoubtedly do much to hurt the employers association.

One bad thing for us that we just begin to notice is that there can be no compromise, as we merely asked for recognition of the union, whereas if we had asked for an increase of wages as well there is no doubt we would have had a settlement as we could have given in on the wages and the Telephone Company's defeat would not have appeared so glaring, but the way it is now, it is "yes" or "no" on either side. This is one good lesson this strike has taught us (and experience is certainly a good teacher.) "When presenting a scedule always leave room for compromising."

When G. V. P. Sullivan left us he left the situation in the hands of the Central Labor body. This looks all right on paper but if we relied on said body to settle this strike, well, we might as well wait for the second coming of John the Baptist. Of course a few of the members of this body are active workers, but taken collectively, the whole aggregation is not worth the proverbial "tinkers damn."

However, despite many reverses we have carried on a good aggressive fight and we have not finished fighting yet. Not by a jug full.

The present service maintained by the Telephone Company is bad and bids fair to become worse, as the present staff of operators is composed of very young girls and other kinds of girls who will not bear to be disciplined and what is an operating room without discipline? Might as well have a ship without a rudder. The Company are also very generous in the way

of remuneration for these scab operators, in fact an outsider would imagine the company was directed by a board of philanthropists instead of cold blooded financiers.

The outside staff is wholly incompetent. Ye Gods, I saw one of them dragging a bear 14 across a 2000 primary and nothing happened and yet they tell me there is justice in this world?

The company is still paying 50 cents an hour, but tried to cut this awhile ago. However, the "scabs" refused to work for less, so the big money still goes. Another source of expense is the small army of "spotters" and "hangers on" who are making a fat little stake but who so far have not shown the company any tangible results of their duties.

The laws of this country are somewhat strict (I mean for a poor man) for instance calling a man "scab" seems sufficient cause for arrest. They had one of our men arrested for this but the company could not prove the charge or to be more accurate we disproved it.

\$1,000 reward is the larger headlines of an advertisement appearing in all newspapers. This is offered by the Telephone Company for the conviction of any one found cutting cables or otherwise destroying their property. This is to lead the gullible public astray and I can imagine the following conversation over the phone: Subscriber, Hello, Hello, is that the telephone company. Telephone Company, Yes, can't hear you, speak louder. Subscriber, Well, can you fix my phone, it hasn't been working for a week; Yes, 55 is the number. Telephone Company, Very sorry, madam, but your wires have been tampered with and we are not to blame. We offer \$1,000 reward for the apprehension of the miscreants, but we will get your phone working by tomorrow. Subscriber, wearily hanging up receiver, that's what he said four days ago.

Six weeks ago the superintendent of the telephone company made a statement that he wouldn't have any of the striking operators back at any price. Last week he wrote to several and asked them to come back. This to my notion certainly indicates wavering on the company's part. Finances are somewhat low and if any Locals that we have not appealed to, have any surplus of cash, kindly remember that we can use it to good advantage here.

We had a visit from Bro. H. L. Worthington last Wednesday; that night being our regular meeting night he was up and gave us some good advice and explained a great many things of which we had but faint knowledge before. He was of the opinion that we had the company going some and I think they will soon be going harder. Well, I guess I will quit.

Yours fraternally,

W. E. MANNING.

Vancouver, B. C., May 28, 1906.

Local Union No. 213.

As I have just been elected recording secretary, I have not had a chance to write a letter for the journal yet, but will try and let the brothers know how things are, in Vancouver, through future issues of the Official Journal. I would like to advise you of our change of address and meeting nights, so as you can have it changed in the journal at the Head Office. We meet second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at Labor hall, corner of Homer and Dunsmuir streets. W. E. Manning, President; A. A. MacDonald, Recording Secretary; H. Elsdon, Financial Secretary, Cecil House, Hasting street. If this should reach you in time for the WORKER, I wish you would insert a little piece notifying linemen that this berg is full of lots of good hikers and bunches of scabs. When they come around where we are (Light hikers) we have great sport watching them jump in their wagon when we start after them, balling them out through the town. One fellow was brave and wanted fight, it was Harris, the fellow that quit the union to go back and we had a fighter about half his size and Harris has now got a genuine scabby face.

Local No. 213 had the pleasure of the company of Bro. Worthington, President Pacific Council, and he gave us some very good advice and we long for a talk with such an able speaker as Bro. Worthington, he is a man that can hold the eyes and ears of a hiker as long as he talks.

Well, I hope by the time you hear from Local No. 213 again, that the scabs will be all cleaned out of Vancouver or stuffed in a wind jammer for the Fiji Island or some place worse.

Wishing the brotherhood success, I remain,

P. S.—The "Hello" girls are holding out fine like good union skirts.

Yours sincerely,

A. A. MACDONALD.

Vancouver, B. C., May 30, 1906.

Local Union No. 227.

Well, Mr. Editor, if you will allow me a few lines in your Journal, I will endeavor to place before you the fact that Local No. 227 is still in the field of usefulness. As you all know and to those that do not this will be sufficient notice that the majority of the members of No. 227 have been locked out by the Southern Bell Tel. & Tel. Co., since April 15, along with the rest of the Locals in the Southern Bell district. But notwithstanding, our difficulty we have taken in about 15 new members since the difficulty started and we are holding our own pretty well. The following men refused to come out with us and are still working: Wm. Stange, lineman, Cincinnati, O.; W. D. Cook, line-

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man, homeless; Red Nelson, Columbus, Ga.; Thos. Huffman, Birmingham, Ala. and B. A. Adams, homeless. I am also sending separate list of men shipped here by the United States Construction Co., from points in Ohio, Illinois and Indiana. I have talked to each one of them and have put our side of the case before them the majority of them informed me that it was not their fight and they would get theirs as long as it would last, trusting all brotherhood men will bear this well in mind, I will not take up any more of this space and remain, with all success to our noble cause,

W. N. MILLER, Press Secy.
Birmingham, Ala., May 31, 1906.

Local Union No. 227.

I take pleasure in writing you as there has not been a letter to appear in the WORKER from 227 for some time. I wish to make a few remarks about unionism, fellowship, etc., and would be pleased to see them appear in the WORKER. Any American wage-earner who is not in a union is nothing but a chunk of human pigiron. He is not a complete man, but only the raw material out of which a man may possibly be made.

Once you get the working people organized there is no limit to their advancement. As long as a chunk of pigiron remains the way it is, it is good for nothing. An unorganized body of men are like a lot of tramps working for their dinner.

It does not make a man less than he was to join the union though there are some pin-headed fellows who think that a union would interfere with their personal liberty, for my part, I would rather be a strong, swift, smooth union man.

Unions are no longer experiments, they rank among the greatest successes of the century. Nothing else, ever brought as large a share of prosperity to the home of the workingman. So much on unionism, now to other duties, say friendship. As we look around us we see constant opportunities to apply the principles of friendship, by speaking a kind word to a friend in distress, or doing something that will help him in his efforts to climb the ladder of honor, please hear brothers, remember there is a duty to perform by each individual, and he who neglects that duty is falling short of the purpose for which he was placed in the world. There is a constant demand for help along all lines; there is need for moral and intellectual development, as well as physical and financial and unless we are doing our portion in all these lines we are not accomplishing the possibilities that are for us. It brings about results that could not be reached from any other source. It helps us to realize that the race is made up of common brotherhood

of which each of us is only a part, and entitled to our due portion of the blessings which may be received from all sources; hence we realize all men have a claim upon us in proportion to their needs and our capacity to supply them, so let us not be selfish. What a grand world this will be when the whole race once grasps the idea of friendship. Let us remember that "ability plus opportunity equals obligation," thus showing that we are ever to be ready to offer a kind word to our fellowmen. Many union men think that unionism means selfishness as long as they hold good, steady, paying positions they are satisfied; their brother who may not be so fortunate must hustle for himself without any help from his union brother, always give your fellow-unionist a chance. We should attend our meetings regular. Be consistent, do something. Don't be selfish, that's poor unionism. Keep secret and sacred all business transacted at your meetings. Don't discuss union matters on the sidewalks, pay your dues promptly. Be a union man in principles as well as in name. This report explains my ideas.

At present writing there are between thirty and thirty-five non-union men working for So. Bell Tel. & Tel. Co. in Birmingham and its immediate vicinity. It is a matter of impossibility to ascertain the names of these "rats" as they are closely guarded and are not allowed to go on the streets but very little after working hours. This place being centrally located, we cannot keep the "rats" out as they have the advantage of the "boycott law."

Yours fraternally,
S. B. MONTGOMERY.
Birmingham, Ala., April 1.

Local Union No. 251.

Well, for fear some of the brothers will think that perhaps we people down here in "Old Arkansaw" have ceased to exist, I will just proceed to start up my pitiful wailings once more.

Well, boys, things are still good for the "fixers" around Pine Bluff. All the brothers are working. We have succeeded in landing a couple of the boys out of our old enemy's ranks, the Bell Telephone Company and will get one more making all of the men working for them here carrying the Goods. How's that? Won't that help some? We have made a little loosening with the Independent job here as they are working nothing but "cheap skates," but think we will proceed to get our notions together and see if we can't do something with them, yet will say our little Local here is in better condition than it has been for some time, as we have woke up some of our slumbering brothers.

I just merely note these facts so you will see that we are putting up a fight in

spite of all difficulties. Well, brothers, if coming this way, have your calling cards in good order and you will find a hearty welcome.

With every good wish for the entire brotherhood, I am,

Yours fraternally,

E. E. "SLIM" WALKER.

Pine Bluff, Ark., May 3, 1906.

Local Union No. 283.

WHEREAS, It has pleased Almighty God, in his infinite wisdom to call from our midst our esteemed brother, James O'Brien, and

WHEREAS, We mourn the loss of him, whom while in life was possessed of a noble and generous disposition, ever willing and ready to uplift a brother, and help the cause of Unionism, and while we can nevermore grasp his hand in brotherly love and friendship, we humbly submit to the Will of Divine Providence; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the demise of our brother leaves a vacancy and a shadow that will be deeply realized by all the members of this Local Union; and, be it further

Resolved, That we, as a Union in brotherly love, pay tribute to his memory, by expressing our sorrow at his death and extend to his bereaved parents, relations and friends our sincere sympathy, and be it further

Resolved, That we drape our charter for a period of thirty days, as a token of respect, and a copy of these resolutions be

spread upon the minutes of this Local, and sent to the bereaved family and also to our Official Organ for publication.

R. U. MCALLISTER,

J. P. COLLINS,

THOS. COWLEY,

JAS. THOMPSON,

Committee.

Oakland, Calif.

Local Union No. 299.

No. 299 is still doing business and coming along O. K. We had a great open meeting on the 3d of the month and the hall was packed; Bro. Jno. W. Armstrong was there and addressed the boys for about half an hour and told them some facts that I hope they will remember; they were all very much pleased with his address as they showed it by the hearty applause they gave him. I was very much pleased what he said about sticking together and if we did we would always win out. After we adjourned we called a business meeting and put through six new members; there was about twenty visiting brothers there from the W. J. & S. R. R. job; they said the work was moving along. Bros. Bud Perry and Bert Gallagher was to see us also. We expect to take in a great many new members this month as we have our eye on all those boys who are out of the fold. With success to our Brotherhood—all its members, I remain,

Yours fraternally,

G. D. B., P. S.

Camden, N. J., May 8, 1906.

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Delaware Wilmington313	Illinois Alton128 Aurora149 Belleville56 Bloomington197 Belvidere466 Carlinville444 Champaign203 Chicago9 Chicago49 Chicago134 Chicago282 Chicago376 Chicago381 Danville290 Decatur242 E. St. Louis309 Elgin117 Freeport387 Galesburg184 Granite City367 Joliet176 Kankakee332 Kewanee94 Le Salle321 Lincoln303 Peoria34 Peoria202 Quincy67 Rockford196 Rock Island109 Rock Island278 Springfield193 Springfield427 Streator233	Michigan Ann Arbor171 Battle Creek445 Bay City150 Cadillac455 Detroit17 Detroit173 Detroit393 Escanaba374 Grand Rapids75 Grand Rapids231 Houghton405 Iron Mountain359 Jackson205 Lansing352 Marquette407 Muskegon275 Saginaw145 St. Ste. Marie332 Traverse City131	New Jersey Atlantic City210 Atlantic City211 Camden299 Hackensack422 Jersey City15 Jersey City164 Long Branch331 Newark52 Newark87 Newark190 Paterson102 Perth Amboy358 Plainfield262 Trenton29	Oklaoma Guthrie364 Oklahoma456 Oklahoma155 Shawnee48
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JUN 1906

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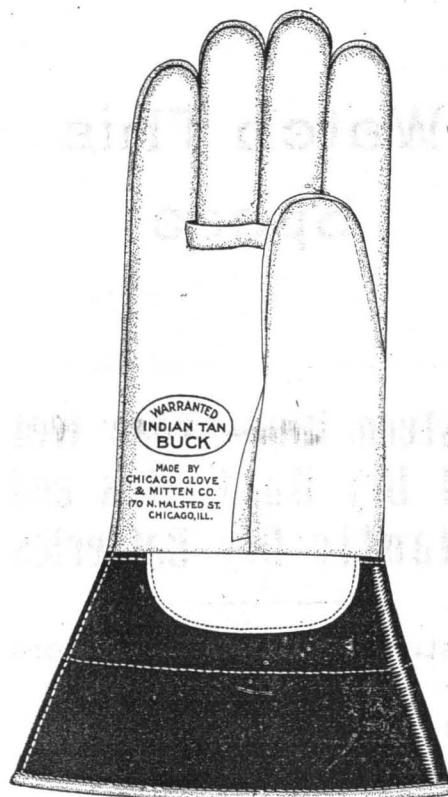
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THE CHICAGO LINEMENS' GLOVE

...FOR ELECTRICAL WORKERS...

UNION MADE

Manufactured by

The Chicago Glove & Mitten Co.

C. WILTSHIRE, Proprietor.

170 N. Halsted Street
Chicago, Illinois.

If your dealer does not
handle our gloves write for
our mail order catalogue.



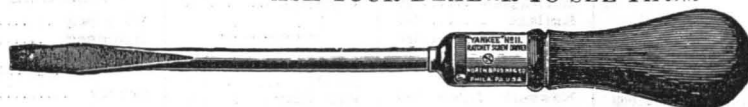
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Are the newest, cleverest and most satisfactory in use, and the first to be offered at so reasonable a price that every up-to-date mechanic could buy tools of their quality and character. Other tools are very good tools, but "Yankee" Tools are better.

"Yankee" Tools are sold by all leading dealers in tools and hardware everywhere.

ASK YOUR DEALER TO SEE THEM



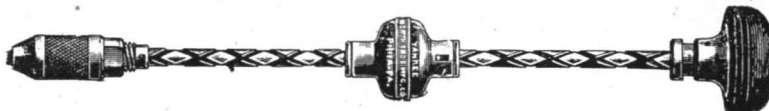
"Yankee"
Ratchet Screw
Driver.

"Yankee"
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"Yankee"
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"Yankee"
Automatic Drill with
Magazine for
Drill Points.



"Yankee"
Reciprocating
Drill for Wood or
Metal.

Our "Yankee" Tool Book tells all about these and some others, and is mailed free on application to

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Supplies Current for

Electric Light
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Buy the Standard Lamp of the World

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**Eastern High-Grade Wet
and Dry Batteries and
Atlantic Dry Batteries**

Eastern Battery Connectors

**EASTERN CARBON WORKS
CARBON PLACE
JERSEY CITY, N. J.**

JUN 1906



**Happy in a Suit of Finck's Detroit Special
Overalls and Jacket**

Clarence Warmington

Better known as

Hot Stuff

Clarence Warmington has been dubbed "HOT STUFF" by the railroad boys of the Southern Pacific. He has won that extra appendix to his name by his numerous fast runs. He was recently transferred from a Yuma freight run to the regular passenger trip to Santa Ann. On last Saturday he pulled out of the Arcade depot fourteen minutes late and made the run to Santa Ann, a distance of thirty-four miles, in forty-nine minutes, making several slowdowns and eleven stops. He ran in on time. Several Sundays ago he touched the high-water mark on the run to Santa Monica, making the run in twenty-one minutes. Again on this last Sunday, according to a railroader who kept "tab" on the telegraph poles, Warmington was spurting along for a short time at the rate of 78 miles per hour. He is as full of fast runs as a boy is of candy on Christmas morning.

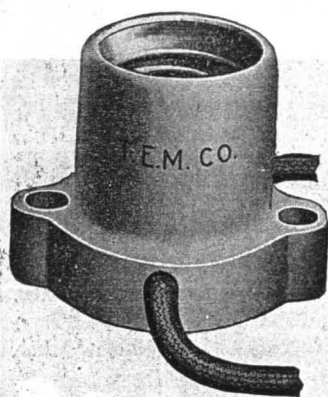
**I wear Finck's Detroit Special Overalls because
they are the best.**

*Clarence Warmington
Los Angeles Calif*

Engineers and Firemen are buying Finck's "Detroit Special" Overalls and Jacket because they are the best. Ask for them or write for booklet.

W. M. Finck & Company, Detroit

JUN 1906



Weatherproof Receptacle

This is the most satisfactory receptacle to use in conduit boxes, as there are no binding screws to corrode, short circuit or work loose.

The receptacles are connected to the mains by two stranded wires soldered to the lamp contacts inside the receptacle, similar to our standard weatherproof sockets. The screws are supplied with each receptacle.

Bossert Boxes No. 8-N are provided with two threaded holes to which the receptacles are secured by machine screws after the wires have been pulled in to the conduits.

On sign and other out-door work this receptacle will outlast any other, as all openings in the porcelain are sealed, which prevents moisture from entering.

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The Trumbull Electric Mfg. Co.

608 Woodford Avenue

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Hansen's Gloves are made with a full understanding of the special requirements of your calling. Electrical needs have been studied and met just as have railroad, automobile and other needs. Have your dealer show you the style, size, weight and leather that suits you best. Hansen's Gloves are double strength at every seam and point of strain, yet there are no ridges, welts or hard places to bind and pinch the hand. Hansen's Horsehide Leather cannot crack, harden or become harsh, no matter how often wet. They feel and fit like kid, but wear like rawhide.

If you cannot get Hansen's in your city, write us for information how to **Get a Pair Free**

O. C. HANSEN MFG. CO.

Send for catalogue,
handsomely
illustrated
in colors.

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MILWAUKEE



"Built Like a Hand"



CAUTION

We announce for the protection of our customers that all small tools, climbers, etc., of our manufacture are stamped with our firm name thus:

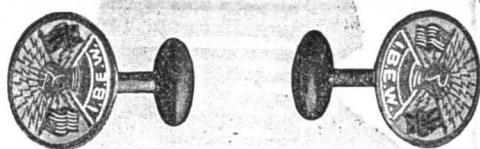
M. KLEIN & SONS.

There are tools on the market stamped "Klein's Pattern," and a number of climbers have been sent to us in a defective condition which we have been asked to replace. Evidently the owners were under the impression that they were made by us

Purchasers wanting genuine Klein goods are cautioned to see that the full name **M. KLEIN & SONS** is stamped on them. None others are genuine.

Mathias Klein & Sons

A New Departure!



WEAR THE I. B. E. W.

Cuff Buttons

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ROLLED GOLD, (PER PAIR), \$1.50

Send in your order now, while the supply lasts. All orders must be accompanied by the necessary amount of cash.

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Measures volts of a single cell of battery or of an electric light current, besides measuring amperes. It's compact and inexpensive.

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No Rivets. Out Seams. They Fit

MADE FROM CHROME TANNED
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YOUR PATRONAGE
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LINEMEN'S CLIMBERS Best in the World



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DO YOU USE NOKORODE?

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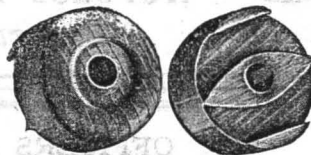
Before July 1st, 1906, send 50 of the tin covers from the 2 oz. enameled cans by mail to us, and we will send you Free, one of our "Little Beauty" Blow Torches.

For convenience in packing the rim may be cut from the cover.

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Ask your dealer for the Donnelly. He either carries them in stock or will get them for you. If not send to us direct.

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Price per Pair, Express Prepaid \$2.00
 Price per Pair, Express Collect 1.50
 Extra Spurs, 25 Cents per Pair, Postpaid.

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Price per Pair, Express Prepaid \$2.00
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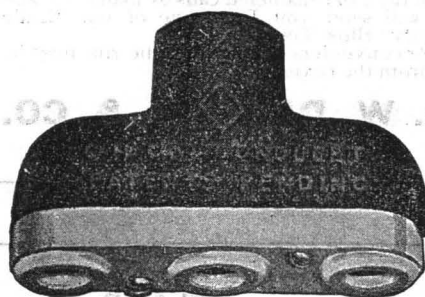
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Insist on having the Donnelly, and you'll never regret it.
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Type "A" Condulet for Rigid Conduit.

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OSBURN FLEXIBLE CONDUIT CO.

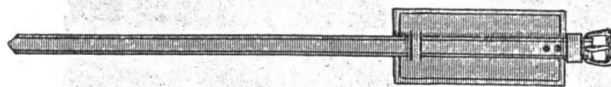
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Safety Straps and
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Guarantees Quality. Take No Other

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IN YOUR RESIDENCE

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Three Famous Brands of Rubber Boots

Many a lineman owes his life to his rubber boots. With other people rubber boots keep out the wet; with linemen they keep out the wet AND THE ELECTRICITY. But a cracked rubber boot is a dangerous thing for a lineman to wear. His rubber boots should be the best. Here are three famous brands of rubber boots

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The first are made by the Boston Rubber Shoe Co., Boston.
The second by L. Candee & Co., New Haven, Conn.
The third by the Woonsocket Rubber Co., Woonsocket, R. I.
All old reliable companies, whose goods have been a standard for 50 years.

Look on the bottom of your boots. If you find one of these three names

YOU'VE GOT GOOD BOOTS

JUN 1906

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**SATISFACTION
GUARANTEED**

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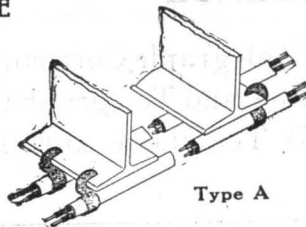
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Is Time Worth Saving?

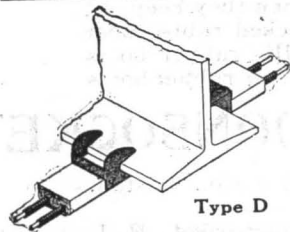
THEN USE

"SHAWMUT"



Type A

Rapid CONDUIT Moulding Hangers



Type D

Write
for
Bulletin
No. 24

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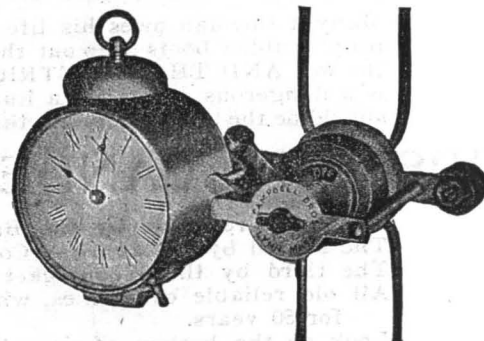
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Manufacturers

**GLASS INSULATORS, BATTERY JARS
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WIREMEN When you see window lights or any other circuit that needs automatic control, recommend the **Campbell Time Switch**.



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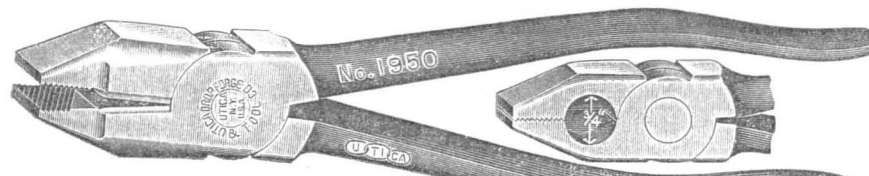
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CAMPBELL ELECTRIC CO. LYNN, MASS

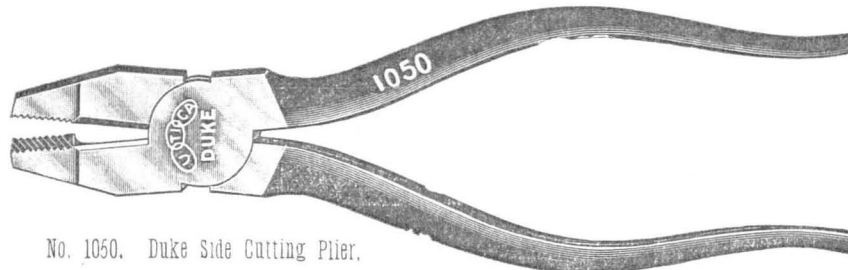
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UTICA TOOLS ARE UNEQUALLED

THEY ARE ON A STANDARD BY THEMSELVES



No. 1950. Cannon Ball Throat Side Cutting Plier



No. 1050. Duke Side Cutting Plier.

ONCE TRIED YOU WILL ACCEPT NO OTHERS
 UTICA TOOLS LEAD IN QUALITY, DESIGN AND FINISH. ASK FOR THEM.

ONLY THE GENUINE BEAR THIS MARK



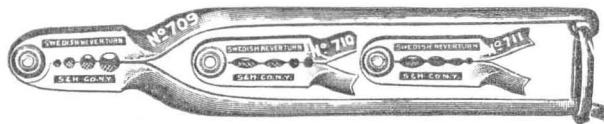
Always Look For It. Take No Substitute

IF YOUR DEALER DOES NOT HAVE THEM WRITE US

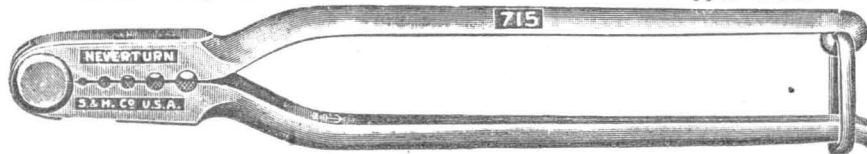
Write for "Plier Palmistry" a Catalog with Valuable Information on PLIERS and NIPPERS
UTICA DROP FORGE & TOOL CO., 75 GENESEE ST., UTICA N. Y.
 MANUFACTURERS OF A COMPLETE LINE OF PLIERS AND NIPPERS.

SWEDISH NEVERTURN LINEMEN'S CLAMPS OR CONNECTORS

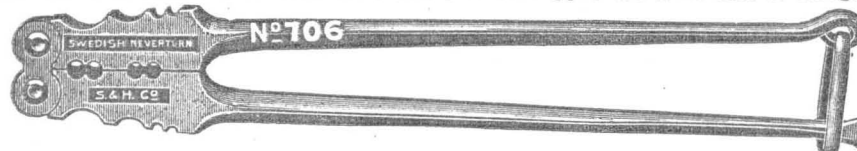
The Swedish Nevertturn Tools have been used and tested for years. Have always given satisfaction to the users. The prices are within reach of all. The quality is superior to all others. Made from Electro BO-RAS-IC steel. Spring tempered handles with round edges. The best that mechanical skill can produce. Fully warranted.



No. 709—Baby for Nos. 8 to 16 Iron Wire and 6 to 16 Copper Wire.



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No. 706—Combination for Nos. 4 to 12 Iron Wire, 2 to 10 Copper Wire and 8 to 10 Sleeves.
 Ask your dealer or jobber for these goods, or write for Green Book.

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SMITH & HEMENWAY COMPANY

Mfrs. Fine Electrical Tools

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SAFETY

For Linemen and Electricians

Buffalo Rubber Gloves are the only safe practical working gloves because they are made of pure rubber, seamless, tough and absolutely airtight—Perfect insulation. Stand a test of 5,000 volts. Buffalo Gloves are very supple, allowing a free handling of tools and wires, without that clumsy feeling, yet are the most durable, being made of all-rubber.

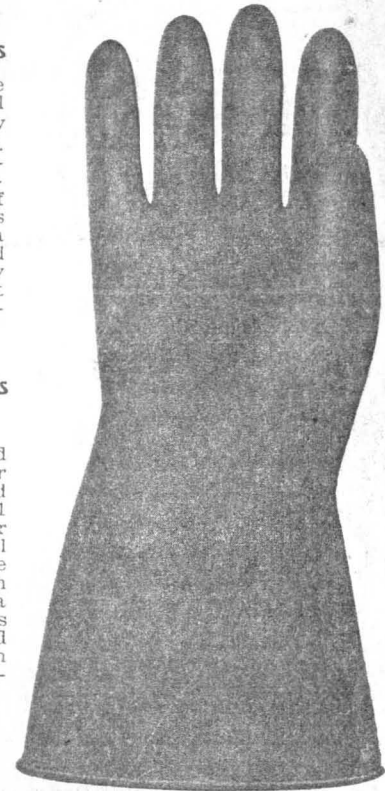
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Electricians' and Linemen's
GLOVES

can be quickly put on and taken off. They are better fitting than any others and easier to work with. No 1 style—same thickness rubber throughout for general work. No. 2 style—same thickness as No. 1 but with a re-enforcement of extra thickness of rubber on palms and inside of fingers and thumbs—for every rough work. Write us for information and prices.



Re-enforced Glove No. 2.



Regular Glove No. 1.

**THE BUFFALO
RUBBER MFG. CO.**

BUFFALO, N. Y.

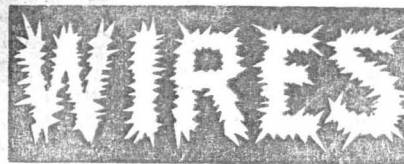
CROWN WOVEN WIRE BRUSH COMPANY

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

MANUFACTURERS OF

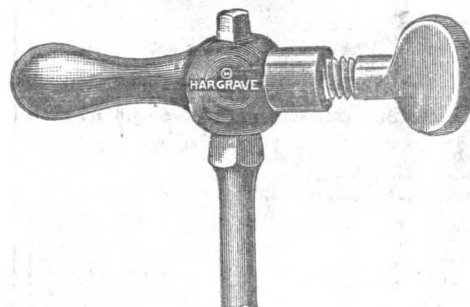
HIGH-GRADE WOVEN WIRE DYNAMO BRUSHES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION

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FINISH
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